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.
In die sancti Hipoliti

**Primero Psalmo**
Ma tipapaquica, ma tahauiaca in ipan ihluitzi in itlaço in Dios in sant Hipolito Martyr: yoan ipampa in vei tlamauiçolli in topan omuchiu in nican Nueva España titlaca.

Iuh catca in itlatlaliltzi in totecuyo dio in aiamo tzinti in cemanaoa, inic vei tlamauiçoltica otechmomaquististli in imacpa in tlacateculutl, in nican nueva España titlaca.

Inin tlamauiçolli, topan oquimuchiui inipan ihluitzi initlaço in Dios in sant Hipolito: auh in tonemauzistiliz, in tech nezcaiio thoqipahuia Israel, inic oquimomaquististli inipam Egipto tlaço.

Iehoat in Moysen, oquimolhuia in ipilhoa in Israel, iniquac oquimomaquististli imacpa in Egipto tlaca: maxiquilnamiquica inin ihluitzi, inipan oanmaquistilizque inipan imacpa in Egipto tlaço.

Vel xiquilnamiquica inin ihluitzi, inipan oanquitlazque in tlacuiutl, in tetlaiecultiltiztl, inic amintlacaoa oanmuchiuhticatca in Egipto tlaço.

Veit tlamauiçolli, vei nechicaoaliztica, oamechmomaquististli in Dios, inipan imacpa in amoiaoa, in amotetolinicaca.

**Segundo Psalmo**

Yniuh tlamauiçolctica oquimomaquististli in totecuyo Dios inipilhoa in Israel imacpa in Egipto tlaço, inipan chicuauilhuitl metztli, initoca Março.

Çan noix tlamauiçolctica otechmomaquististli in totecuyo Dios in nican nueva España titlaca, inipan inechichiualitzi inipan ihluitzi in sant Hipolito.

Auh in iehoanti inipilhoa in Israel, cecexiuhtica ilhuiquistiaia, inic quilhuiquistiaia ininnemaquistiliz ilhuiuh, çan no techmonequi in nueua España titlaca, cecexiuhtica tilhuiti azque.

Ca cenca vei tlamauiçoll, topan quimuchiu in totecuyo Dios, inic opeoaloque: in iehoanti quimalhuiaia, quimanauiaia in tlatlacatecula, in nican tepachoaia nueua España.

Tintlacaoa ticatac in tlacatecula, auh iehoanti in tecututl in tlatoque, quinipesticacatca, quintlaçotlaticatac in tlacatecula: auh in Dios quioalmoiali ini iaqiquiezcaoa, inic peoaloque in tlacatecula, yoan inintelcaotlacaoa.

Inin tlamauiçoll, inic otimaquistilloque in Nueva España titlaca, ipan omuchiu in ihluitzi initlaço in Dios in sant Hipolito, matipapaquica, matahauiaca: Alleluia, alleluia.

**Tercero Psalmo**

Maticmauiçoca inaxca initlatollo, yoan in inechichiualitzi inipilhoa in Dios in sant Hipolito, cenca mauiztiloniz.

Initlaço in Dios in sant Hipolito, Roma ichan, tlaçopilli, y Alcaide catca in Emperor Decio: auh iniquac ilpiloc initlaço in Dios in sant Lorenço, vei Alguazal catca.

Auh in iehoatl initlaço in Dios in sant Lorenço, teutlalotl oquimonaotz in sant Hipolito, tlacetocani catca, oquetlaneltoquite, yoan oquiquatequi, yoan iniquichiti ichantalca.

Auh iniquac oomomiquili initlaço in Dios in sant Lorenço, auh in iehoatl in sant Hipolito, ichtaca quitoxac innicaia: auh ic oteispanuiloc inspan Empador.

Auh in iehoatl in Emperor otlanaoati in analoz, ispan vicoz: auh iniquac oispan vicoz, vetzcac in quito: cuix tinaoalli otmuchiuhi, inic oticctotac innicaia in Lorenço?

Auh in iehoatl in sant Hipolito quito: nehotel onictocac innicaiaotzi initlaço in Dios in sant Lorenço: amo ipampa in inoaallli, ca çan ipampa in ni Christiano.

**Quarto Psalmo**

Auh in Emperador, in oiuh quicac y, cenca oqualan, otlanaoati, inic quicopinilizque ini christiano tatqui, inic quipetlaauazque.

Auh in iehoatl initlaço in Dios, in sant Hipolito, quito: amo ninotequipa choa, inipampa onipetlaaoalc, amononinopinaoa: auh in Emperador oquilhui, ic tineci, ca tiijolotlaueliloc, amo tipinaoa inic tipeztlauhticac.

Yoan oquilhui in Emperador, in tlacamo ictlanaz inispa in toceoa, tipoluiiz, iniuh opoliuh Lorenço, in otictocac innicaia.

Auh initlaço in Dios in sancto Hipolito, quito: amo ipampa ininacaiaotzi, amo ipampa in ni Christiano.

Auh in iehoatl in Emperador otlanaoati, inic quiuilantiazque inisquichica miquiz: unoan oquimonaotz ini iehoatl in sant Hipolito, quito: ca ni Christiano.

Yoan in iehoatl in san Hipolito, inic quiuilantiazque inisquichica miquiz: unoan omomiquili initlaço in Dios in sant Hipolito, ini anima otlamelaun inilhuicac: auh innicaia, qualca oquitocaen in Christianome, in umba 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
Psalmody Christiana, Table of Contents (333 Psalms)

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Ten Commandments; Precepts of the Church; Seven Sacraments; Heavenly
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Circumcision of Our Lord [4 psalms]
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St. Gregory the Great [3 psalms]
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**Epiphany**
1) Hostis Herodes impie

**Resurrection of Our Lord**
2) Aurora lucis rutilat
3) Rex aeterne Domine
4) Ad coenam agni providi

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**Ascension of Our Lord**
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**Pentecost**
9) Iam Christus astra ascenderat

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**Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
14) Quem terra pontus sidera
15) Ave maris stella

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

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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 aeterne domine (*Analecta Hymnica* 2, no. 47)
--Hymn at Matins during Eastertide

THIRD PSALM
[Rex aeterne 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 ascendens revolvit lapidem et super eum sedit et dixit multicribus 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 terramotus factus est magnus angelus autem domini descendit de caelo 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 aeterne" and "Ad coenam"]

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**Primary Source:**
*Psalmodia christiana y sermonario de los sanctos 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:**