

## A Note on the Numbering of the Psalms and Verses

The numbering of the psalms to be found in most Christian liturgies is taken from the Greek Septuagint. This numeration differs from that found in the Hebrew text and most modern English translations of the Bible, both Catholic and Protestant. Books with a liturgical emphasis generally follow the Septuagint numbering, and other Biblical and exegetical works the Hebrew. Latin and Spanish bibles (and lectionaries) follow the Septuagint numbering. Comparative numbering:

Greek Septuagint/Latin (Vulgate)	Hebrew
1–8	1–8
9	9–10
10–112	11–113
113	114–115
114–115	116
116–145	117–146
146–147	147
148–150	148–150

Therefore for most of the psalms the Greek numeration is one behind that of the Hebrew.

The numbering of the verses is also slightly different in versions which follow the Greek text from versions which follow the Hebrew text. The latter generally begin numbering the verses from the body of the psalms, and do not number the titles which precede many of the psalms. The liturgical texts have generally included the title in their numbering, and when this is more than a few words long, they count the beginning of the body of the psalm as its second or third verse.

It is important to compare psalm texts rather than just psalm numbers and verse numbers when one moves back and forth between and among sacramentaries, lectionaries, psalters, graduals, hymnals, and Bible translations approved for use at liturgy, any of which may be citing differing versions of the Psalms. The following list of such resource books may be helpful.

English Sacramentary	Greek/Latin
Spanish Misal Romano	Greek/Latin
English Lectionary	Hebrew
Spanish Leccionario	Greek/Latin
Grail Psalter	Greek/Latin
Liturgy of the Hours (Grail Psalter)	Hebrew
Graduale Romanum	Greek/Latin
The Gregorian Missal	Greek/Latin
Graduale Simplex	Greek/Latin
Psallite	Hebrew
By Flowing Waters	Hebrew
The Simple Gradual	Greek/Latin
New American Bible	Hebrew
New RSV Bible	Hebrew
Spanish Bibles	Greek/Latin

[Much of the foregoing text is from *The Psalms: A New Translation* (Singing Version) (New York: Paulist, 1968), with adaptations by Paul Ford and Kevin McCracken.]