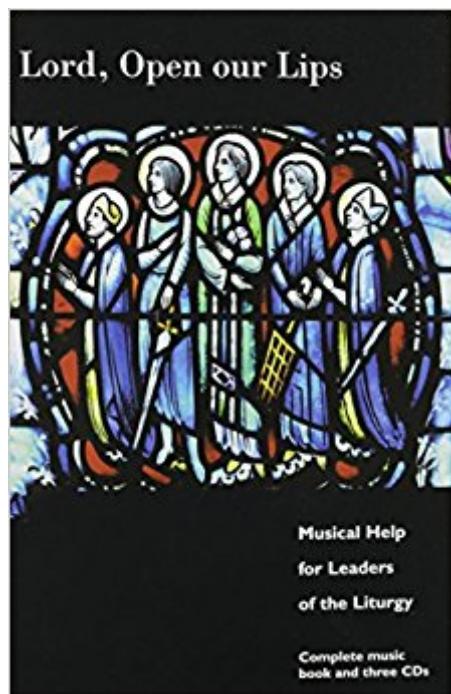


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# Lord, Open Our Lips: Musical Help For Leaders Of The Liturgy



## **Synopsis**

At last, this much-requested resource is available. It was recorded at St. Andrew's Cathedral in Jackson, Mississippi by The Very Rev. Joseph O. Robinson and the Canon for Formation, The Rev. Canon Susan K. Bock, assisted by Dr. John Paul, Organist/Choirmaster and members of the cathedral choir. The triple CD recording with a companion book of music contains everything a presider - whether priest, deacon, or layperson - would sing in an Episcopal service. Highlights of this vast amount of material include all Proper Prefaces in both solemn and simple tones; The Great Litany; The Exsultet; demonstrations of collect tones, lessons before the Gospel, and Gospel tones; Prayers of the People; Eucharistic Prayer C; Solemn Collects and Biddings for Good Friday; music from the daily offices and Enriching Our Worship. Designed to teach by demonstration all the parts of a sung service, it is an indispensable resource for every seminarian and church musician. It can also be used by lay leaders who preside at the daily office, deacons who need to learn the Exsultet, and priests who want to brush up on their accuracy in singing the Eucharist.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Great resource for chanting the Episcopal services from the BCP. I like to drive to church and listen and sing along with the proper prefaces or other upcoming chants, and it has improved my chanting and comfort being in front of the parish as a new priest. My two complaints are that the quality of the audio is inconsistent, and some of the singing is off key. It takes some getting used to when listening to the recordings because it can be a bit distracting or off-putting at first. It would be nice if

a new version was recorded that was of higher quality. Otherwise, it is a great resource for having all the chants and tones you could ever need in one handy little booklet with audio examples to go along with it.

An excellent resource for those of us who learn by hearing. Lord, Open Our Lips gathers together resources from Hymnal 1982 service music (the "S-" material), the Altar Book, and Enriching Our Worship in one place. This material is presented in printed and recorded form. The recordings feature both male and female voices that are confident and clear, but not of "professional singer" caliber; in other words, the types of voices that most of us called upon to chant the liturgy can reasonably aspire to possess. The compilers wisely advise that "[s]ingers should approach the liturgical chants positively and within the scope of their own abilities, keeping in mind that good chanting is created by speech rhythms and a desire to communicate the text." One note of caution: Some background in putting together a liturgy for a particular context is required to use this material effectively. There is a handy reference table that lists the services of the Church and the appropriate tracks on the CDs associated with them, but it is outside the scope of this work to describe when one might employ solemn vs. simple tone and other such niceties of usage. Thus, this resource is not the first place one should go to learn the ins and outs of the liturgy; it is a next step for those familiar with the structure of the liturgies and their various permutations. One minor annoyance: The track divisions on the CDs are not always precise. This presents no problem if you listen to a particular set of tracks in sequence; one flows into the next naturally. If you re-arrange the tracks, however, as is often required to put service elements in their proper places, you may find that material from the beginning or end of another track spills into the track. I noticed this when I ripped the CDs to iTunes, then constructed playlists for various services (for example, Holy Eucharist Rite II, Prayer A, with Prayers of the People Form VI in Eastertide Sundays). You might find, as I did, a female voice intoning the Absolution, then beginning The Peace with "The pea..." then have an abrupt cut into a male voice intoning, "The peace of the Lord be always with you" as it moves to the next track. Quibbles aside, this is an excellent resource for liturgical leader (including those who don't think of themselves as "musical") who would like to learn liturgical chant as it is commonly (and even sometimes uncommonly) used in The Episcopal Church. Highly recommended for seminarians.

This is an excellent and very usable selection of cantors for use by clergy during the Eucharistic part of the service. It covers all four selections in the Book of Common Prayer, with traditional and

contemporary versions sung. It consists of three CDs with a book showing the music and words. It is an easy-to-follow product and one that was highly recommended to me. I, in turn, would definitely recommend this item to any Celebrant who desires to cantor the Eucharist in whatever mode.

I have to chant the Exsultet at the Easter Vigil each year at my church. About six weeks before, I start listening to it on the CD that comes with this book. I listen every time I'm in my car, and I'm in it a lot. By the time I have to chant the Exsultet, I have it committed to memory. What a treasure this resource is to anyone that has to sing the Liturgy!

Very easy to follow. CD's are a great help for those who do not read music and are beginning to explore the possibility of "sung" services.

This is a great source for learning the sacred music/chants of the Episcopal Church. The words and music is provided in the book which also contains 3 pre-recordedÃ  Lord, Open Our Lips: Musical Help for Leaders of the LiturgyCDs, so that you can sing along.

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