

KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE



What is a “canticle”?

The word “canticle” (pronounced KAN-ti-kle) comes from the Latin word “cantus,” which means “song.” A canticle is a song based on a text from Holy Scripture. What could be better than to sing praises to God with the words He gives us?



What’s the difference between a canticle and a hymn?

Hymns and canticles both put God’s Word to music. You’ll know you are singing a hymn when all of the verses are sung to the same melody. You’ll know you are singing a canticle when the verses continue without repeating the melody. What glorious variety our Lord gives in the Divine Service!



Parents: The best way to differentiate between canticles and hymns is to look and listen. Usually the “songs” in a hymnal are appropriately designated as a hymn or a canticle. Help your children to compare the differences. You can see and hear the differences. Point out the differences and discuss the words. Take a look at the texts in the Bible that have inspired the canticle or hymn.

