

Ministry and Liturgy, October 2000

By Flowing Waters by J. Michael Thompson; *The Liturgical Press, St. John's Abbey, PO Box 7500, Collegeville, MN, 56321; 1999; CD \$14.95.*

By Flowing Waters is a collection of 25 excerpts from the book of the same name. The book contains nearly 700 songs based on various chants used in the Roman Catholic Liturgy. Some of the chants will be familiar, for example, "Gloria Laud et Honor" (Palm Sunday), a Gloria from the "Mozarabic Rite," a responsory from the Easter Vigil, and "In Paradisum," etc. Others are newly composed with only a remote hint of the original musical setting.

Titles include: "Alleluia," "Glory to God," "Alleluia Psalm (Ps 9)," "Easter Vigil," "Ascension Alleluia Psalm (Ps 47)," "Apostles Creed in Question Form," "Holy, Holy, Holy," "Memorial Acclamation A," "Doxology Ending and Threefold Amen," "Lamb of God," and "Psalm 34 with Alleluias."

Most of the chants are sung a cappella; all of the texts are in English. Some of the chants have obligatory instrumental parts. The musical style of each chant is different, influenced by the original chant, although the original is not always evident in these settings. Some of the harmonies are quite "modern"; others are medieval "organum," but whatever style is used, the effect is very satisfying. Rhythms are used in various ways, always enhancing the text. Different styles of psalm singing are used. The voice ranges usually follow the original chants, but not always. An accompanying pamphlet gives excellent background to each of the selections. The variety of selections makes this CD highly useful. This collection would be most desirable in the library of a good choir. The performing group, The Schola Cantorum of St. Peter the Apostle in Chicago, does these chants exceedingly well.

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