The Penitential Psalms are the seven psalms numbered 6, 31, 37, 50, 101, 129, and 142 in the Greek Septuagint and Latin Vulgate Bibles; and 6, 32, 38, 51, 102, 130, and 143 in the Hebrew Masoretic. © 2012 University of Notre Dame.

1. Yet this book also focuses more narrowly on the fortunes of the Penitential Psalms in the mid- to late sixteenth century, when the sequence became caught up in Reformation controversy. The objective of this endeavor (that is, of the simultaneous adumbration of both a longer and a shorter history of the Penitential Psalms) is not to insist upon the much-invoked opposition between late medieval and early modern modes of expression. Question: "What are the penitential psalms?". Answer: The book of Psalms is a collection of 150 poems, hymns, and songs originating from worship in ancient Israel. Throughout history, church fathers and Bible scholars have classified individual psalms into various categories according to their content, theme, and structure. One grouping known as the penitential psalms shares the key feature of expressing penitence—the psalmist's sorrow over sin and spiritual failure. There are seven penitential psalms: Psalms 6; 32; 38; 51; 102; 130; and 143. In each, the author acknowledges or confesses his sin and seeks forgiveness. The Psalter has been used in Christian worship since the early church, and it continues to be a source of spiritual renewal and personal reflection. The book also explores the historical and theological contexts in which the Penitential Psalms were composed and how they have been interpreted through the centuries. This work aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the Penitential Psalms in their historical and cultural settings, offering insights into their significance for contemporary worship and spiritual practice.