

sometimes by one person alone, sometimes by the whole assembly, joining all together, sometimes alternately by the congregation divided into distinct choirs, the one part repeating one verse, and the other another, sometimes one person repeating the first part of the verse, and the rest joining all together at the close of it, he says, "Sometimes the whole assembly joined together, men, women, and children, united with one mouth and one mind in singing psalms and praises to God. This was the most ancient and general practice, till the way of alternate psalmody was brought into the Church. Quoting from St. Chrysostom, he says, "Women and men, old men and children, differ in sex and age, but they differ not in the harmony of singing hymns: for the Spirit tempers all their voices together, making one melody of them all. After the same manner, St. Augustine sometimes speaks of singing the psalms between the lessons with united voices, though before his time the way of alternate psalmody was become very common in all parts of the Church."

Comparing the Church to the sea, St. Ambrose says, "From the responsories of the psalms, and singing of men, women and children, there results an harmonious noise like the waves of the sea." "The way of singing the psalms alternately was when the congregation, dividing themselves into two parts, repeated the psalms by courses, verse for verse, one after another, and not, as formerly, all together. From all this it is as clear as the sun