

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 111 (112): 1-2. 3-4. 5-7a. 7bc-8. 9. R. cf. 1

R. Happy the man who takes delight
in the Lord's commands.

or

R. Alleluia!

1 Happy the man who fears the Lord,
who takes delight in all his commands.

2 His sons will be powerful on earth;
the children of the upright are blessed. R.

3 Riches and wealth are in his house;
his justice stands firm for ever.

4 He is a light in the darkness for the upright:
he is generous, merciful and just. R.

5 The good man takes pity and lends,
he conducts his affairs with honour.

6 The just man will never waver:
he will be remembered for ever. R.

He has no fear of evil news;
with a firm heart he trusts in the Lord.

8 With a steadfast heart he will not fear;
he will see the downfall of his foes. R.

9 Open-handed, he gives to the poor;
his justice stands firm for ever.
His head will be raised in glory. R.

Responsorial Psalms

Usually the first reading in the wedding service is followed by a psalm. This is known as the 'Responsorial Psalm' because it is a way of saying 'Yes, we agree, and we are right behind what that first reading has said'. There are many musical versions of psalms available. The texts come from 'The Book of Psalms' or songs which are part of our Jewish-Christian heritage, at the heart of the Old Testament. We know Jesus himself prayed the psalms. We in our day use these words of our ancestors to respond to the reading from scripture. Someone may sing the psalm verses, and the congregation have a refrain to sing. The *Order of Christian Matrimony* gives you seven choices of psalm. However you may have a psalm that has particular resonance for you, and which you find most fitting for your readings and Gospel, enhancing the whole celebration.

For Reflection

- Look through each psalm choice, and see which speaks most about God's love for you, the love you have for one another, and how God blesses your love. You can ask the same questions of your psalm choice.