

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 148: 1-2. 3-4. 9-10. 11-13. 13c-14a. R. 12

R. Praise the name of the Lord.

or

R. Alleluia!

¹ Praise the Lord from the heavens,
praise him in the heights.

² Praise him, all his angels,
praise him, all his host. R.

³ Praise him, sun and moon,
praise him, shining stars.

⁴ Praise him, highest heavens
and the waters above the heavens. R.

⁹ All mountains and hills,
all fruit trees and cedars,
¹⁰ beasts, wild and tame,
reptiles and birds on the wing. R.

¹¹ All earth's kings and peoples,
earth's princes and rulers;
¹² young men and maidens,
¹³ old men together with children. R.

Let them praise the name of the Lord
for he alone is exalted.

¹⁴ The splendour of his name
reaches beyond heaven and earth. 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.