

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 102 (103): 1-2. 8. 13. 17-18a R: 8a or 17

R: The Lord is compassion and love.

or

R: The love of the Lord is everlasting
upon those who hold him in fear.

¹ My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
all my being bless his holy name.

² My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings. R:

⁸ The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.

¹³ As a father has compassion on his sons,
the Lord has pity on those who fear him. R:

¹⁷ The love of the Lord is everlasting
upon those who hold him in fear;

¹⁸ his justice reaches out to children's children
when they keep his covenant in truth. 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.