

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 127(128): 1-2. 3. 4-5. R. cf. 1 or 4

R. O blessed are those who fear the Lord!

or

R. Indeed thus shall be blessed  
the man who fears the Lord.

<sup>1</sup> O blessed are those who fear the Lord  
and walk in his ways!

<sup>2</sup> By the labour of your hands you shall eat.  
You will be happy and prosper. R.

<sup>3</sup> Your wife will be like a fruitful vine  
in the heart of your house;  
your children like shoots of the olive,  
around your table. R.

<sup>4</sup> Indeed thus shall be blessed  
the man who fears the Lord.

<sup>5</sup> May the Lord bless you from Zion  
all the days of your life! 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.