



Advent Readings - Sundays

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Responsorial Psalm

- ▶ This is a response by the whole community to the word of God, heard in the First reading and proclaimed in another form in the Gospel.
- ▶ Best chanted or sung, as the Psalms were originally.
- ▶ A communal response. All of us gathered.
- ▶ It helps bond the community in one voice.
- ▶ The refrain often stays with you, especially in chanted form.



Responsorial Psalm – Psalm 25 (24)

- ▶ A Response to the text of Jeremiah.
- ▶ An anticipation of the response which the Lukan text requests.
- ▶ In this case, although it is not always the case, it includes a response to the Reading from the Letter to the people of Thessaloniki.
- ▶ Learn about the path to choose.
- ▶ It is related to our covenantal relationship with God.
- ▶ It is about how to live in this covenantal relationship.

Responsorial Psalm – 1st Sunday of Advent – Psalm 25 (24)

- ▶ **Response: To you, O LORD/YHWH, I lift my soul.**
- ▶ **In Hebrew the word *nephesh*, soul, is not about the body-soul divide of Greek thought. It is a reference to the whole person, my whole being.**
- ▶ **Personal communication: to you, the one I know by name, I lift my whole being.**
- ▶ **It is personal in the singular, and it is also personal communally.**
- ▶ **In this time of Plenary council and moving towards a Synod on Synodality – we become one in our response to God's Word.**
- ▶ **This is a time of learning how to be the Church God is calling us to be.**

Responsorial Psalm – Psalm 25 (24)

- ▶ Lord, make me know your **ways**.
- ▶ Lord, teach me your **paths**.
- ▶ Make me **walk** in your truth, and teach me'
- ▶ For you are God my saviour.
- ▶ RESPONSE
- ▶ **To you, O LORD, I lift my soul.**

- ▶ The singular can be understood as a collective "I". **PLENARY COUNCIL**



**To know
God's ways,
Gods paths?**

Responsorial Psalm – Psalm 25 (24)

- ▶ The LORD/YHWH is good and upright.
The Hebrew has THEREFORE
- ▶ God shows the path to those who stray.
- ▶ God guides the humble in the right path; he teaches his way to the poor.
- ▶ RESPONSE
- ▶ **To you, O LORD, I lift my soul.**
- ▶ Learning how to choose our path is not for the perfect but for those open to learn God's ways/paths.
- ▶ Our choices are inspired by the nature of our God: good, upright, guiding, teaching...

Responsorial Psalm – Psalm 25 (24)

- ▶ **God's ways are faithfulness/hesed and love for those who keep his covenant and will.**
- ▶ **The LORD'S friendship is for those who revere him;**
- ▶ **To them he reveals his covenant.**
- ▶ **RESPONSE**
- ▶ **To you, O LORD, I lift my soul.**



Psalm 25:4bc-5ab, 8-9, 10 & 14

- ▶ You would not guess from the sections we chant as the Responsorial Psalm that this is a lament, some name it a wisdom psalm because it is searching for the way ahead.
- ▶ The single voice sees itself at times as the sinner but is also experiences violent hatred.
- ▶ The covenant relationship *HESED* is the basis for wonderful confidence this suffering individual/ community can express. Show me the path, not just how to live but also the path to understanding what is happening in my life/our life.
- ▶ **Invite you to read the whole Psalm before Sunday.**

Readings

- ▶ The days are coming...
- ▶ Teach me your paths
- ▶ We urge you to make progress in the kind of life...
- ▶ Stay awake ... Stand with confidence.

▶ **ADVENT** – how do we walk into tomorrow, into life?

