

# RESPONDING TO THE PSALMS – May 2025

a project of the Spirituality Committee of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales

We offer the Sunday Responsorial Psalm as a focus for prayer and reflection during the week ahead for yourself or share with others. You could note your own thoughts as a possible personal journal.

This is written after the death of Francis, Bishop of Rome, and as we wait for the Cardinal Electors to choose a successor for the See of Peter. We thank God for Francis's ministry as Pope and ask for the guidance of the Holy Spirit during the Conclave. The Eastertime scriptures speak to us about the mission of the early Church and our mission today. This coincides with our reflection on the gift of Francis to the Church and how we work together in a new pontificate for the spread of the gospel.

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When the Word of God is read in the Bible — the First Reading, the Second, the Responsorial Psalm and the Gospel – we must listen, open our heart, because it's God Himself who is speaking to us, and we must not think of other things or talk about other things. Understood? . . . I will explain to you what happens in this Liturgy of the Word.

The pages of the Bible cease to be a writing to become living word pronounced by God. It's God that, through the person that reads, speaks to us and questions us, who listen with faith. The Spirit "who has spoken through the prophets" (*Creed*) and has inspired the sacred authors, acts so that "that the Word of God truly operates in hearts what He makes resound in ears" (*Lectionary, Introduction 9*). However, to listen to the Word of God it's necessary to have an open heart to receive the word in the heart. God speaks and we listen to Him, to then put into practice what we have heard. It's very important to listen. Sometimes, perhaps, we don't understand well because there are some Readings that are a bit difficult. However, God speaks the same to us in another way. [It's necessary to be] in silence and to listen to the Word of God. Don't forget this. At Mass, when the Readings begin, we listen to the Word of God.

*Pope Francis January 2018 Wednesday Catechesis*

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## May 2025

**Sunday 4 May 2025**

**Third Sunday of Eastertime – Year C**

**Sunday 11 May 2025**

**Fourth Sunday of Eastertime – Year C**

**Sunday 18 May 2025**

**Fifth Sunday of Eastertime – Year C**

**Sunday 25 May 2025**

**Sixth Sunday of Eastertime – Year C**

**Sunday 4 May 2025 3rd Sunday of Easter**

**Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 30(29):2, 4, 5-6, 11, 12a,13b. R2a

*I WILL EXTOL YOU, LORD, FOR YOU HAVE RAISED ME UP.*

I will extol you, LORD, for you have raised me up,  
and have not let my enemies rejoice over me.  
O LORD, you have lifted up my soul from Sheol,  
restored me to life from those who sink into the pit.

*Pray to be conscious in Eastertime of how we share in Christ's resurrection, how he lifts up our soul.  
Pray for the gift to help others who are feeling low, sad, dejected*

Sing psalms to the LORD, you faithful ones;  
give thanks to his holy name.  
His anger lasts a moment; his favour all through life.  
At night come tears, but dawn brings joy.

*Reflect on how we engage with the psalms as a regular part of our daily prayer.  
Pray for the gift of perseverance when life is difficult in any way*

Hear, O LORD, and have mercy on me;  
be my helper, O LORD.  
You have changed my mourning into dancing.  
O LORD my God, I will thank you for ever.

*Reflect prayerfully how the Lord has listened to us when we asked for his help.  
Pray for the gift of thanksgiving for all that God has given us to bring us joy*

**Sunday 11 May 2025 4th Sunday of Easter**

**Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 100(99):1-2. 3. 5. **R**3c

WE ARE HIS PEOPLE, THE SHEEP OF HIS FLOCK

Cry out with joy to the LORD, all the earth.  
Serve the LORD with gladness.  
Come before him, singing for joy.

*Pray for the gift to share our joy in God with others  
Thank God for all who gladly serve you and your community in the name of the Lord*

Know that he, the LORD, is God.  
He made us; we belong to him.  
We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

*Think what a privilege we have in knowing God, in our relationship with God in the risen Christ  
Thank God that we know his care for us as individuals and as his people, with Christ as our shepherd.*

Indeed, how good is the LORD,  
eternal his merciful love.  
He is faithful from age to age.

*Think what a privilege we have in God's promise to us of eternal life through Christ's Resurrection  
Thank God for the people of all time and all places who have served the Church, preparing it for us*

**Sunday 18 May 2025 5th Sunday of Easter**

**Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 145(144):8-9. 10-11. 12-13b. ~~R~~ cf. 1

*I WILL BLESS YOUR NAME FOR EVER, MY GOD AND KING.*

The LORD is kind and full of compassion,  
slow to anger, abounding in mercy.  
How good is the LORD to all,  
compassionate to all his creatures.

*Think prayerfully of how God has been kind to us, showing us his mercy and compassion  
Ask for the gift and grace to show kindness and compassion to those in need around us*

All your works shall thank you, O LORD,  
and all your faithful ones bless you.  
They shall speak of the glory of your reign,  
and declare your mighty deeds.

*Thank God for the Easter moments of new life and resurrection he has given you  
Thank God for the faithful Christians of your life who have inspired you*

To make known your might to the whole human race,  
and the glorious splendour of your reign.  
Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom;  
your rule endures for all generations.

*Think prayerfully how you can draw more people to know God's might and splendour  
Pray for the mission of the Church locally and throughout the world*

Sunday 25 May 2025 6th Sunday of Easter

**Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 67(66):2-3. 5. 6, 8. ~~R~~4

*LET THE PEOPLES PRAISE YOU, O GOD; LET ALL THE PEOPLES PRAISE YOU.*

May God be gracious and bless us  
and let his face shed its light upon us.  
So will your ways be known upon earth  
and all nations learn your salvation.

Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.

*Think about one time when God was gracious and blessed you, and thank God for that moment  
Pray that you will be able to show other people that the ways of God are good for them to follow*

Let the nations be glad and shout for joy,  
with uprightness you rule the peoples;  
you guide the nations on earth.

Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.

*Pray with thanksgiving for all who know and share the peace that comes from the Risen Lord  
Pray for all who have power in the world to be guided by the gift of God's Spirit*

Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.  
May God still give us his blessing  
that all the ends of the earth may revere him.

*Pray for the gift of praise and worship in your local community  
Pray for the mission the Risen Christ has entrusted to us to make disciples of all peoples*