

First Reading

A reading from the Book of Genesis

The Lord God said: "It is not good for the man to be alone.
I will make a suitable partner for him."

So the Lord God formed out of the ground
various wild animals and various birds of the air,
and he brought them to the man to see what he would call them;
whatever the man called each of them would be its name.

The man gave names to all the cattle,
all the birds of the air, and all wild animals;
but none proved to be the suitable partner for the man.

So the Lord God cast a deep sleep on the man,
and while he was asleep,
he took out one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh.
The Lord God then built up into a woman the rib
that he had taken from the man.

When he brought her to the man, the man said:
"This one, at last, is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
This one shall be called 'woman,'
for out of 'her man' this one has been taken."
That is why a man leaves his father and mother
and clings to his wife,
and the two of them become one body.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the Book of Tobit

On their wedding night Tobiah arose from bed and said to his wife,
“Sister, get up. Let us pray and beg our Lord
to have mercy on us and to grant us deliverance.”

Sarah got up, and they started to pray
and beg that deliverance might be theirs.

They began with these words:

“Blessed are you, O God of our fathers;
praised be your name forever and ever.

Let the heavens and all your creation
praise you forever.

You made Adam and you gave him his wife Eve
to be his help and support;

and from these two the human race descended.

You said, ‘It is not good for the man to be alone;
let us make him a partner like himself.’

Now, Lord, you know that I take this wife of mine
not because of lust, but for a noble purpose.

Call down your mercy on me and on her,
and allow us to live together to a happy old age.”

They said together, “Amen, amen.”

The word of the Lord.

Tobit 8:4b-8

A reading from the Book of Proverbs

When one finds a worthy wife,
her value is far beyond pearls.

Her husband, entrusting his heart to her,
has an unfailing prize.

She brings him good, and not evil,
all the days of her life.

She obtains wool and flax
and makes cloth with skillful hands.

She puts her hands to the distaff,
and her fingers ply the spindle.

She reaches out her hands to the poor,
and extends her arms to the needy.

Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting;
the woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.

Give her a reward of her labors,
and let her works praise her at the city gates.

The word of the Lord.

Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31

A reading from the Book of Sirach

Blessed the husband of a good wife,
twice-lengthened are his days;

A worthy wife brings joy to her husband,
peaceful and full is his life.

A good wife is a generous gift
bestowed upon him who fears the Lord;

Be he rich or poor, his heart is content,
and a smile is ever on his face.

A gracious wife delights her husband,
her thoughtfulness puts flesh on his bones;

A gift from the Lord is her governed speech,
and her firm virtue is of surpassing worth.

Choicest of blessings is a modest wife,
priceless her chaste soul.

A holy and decent woman adds grace upon grace;
indeed, no price is worthy of her temperate soul.

Like the sun rising in the Lord's heavens,
the beauty of a virtuous wife is the radiance of her home.

The word of the Lord.

Sirach 26:1-4, 13-16