

A reading from the Book of Genesis

Then God said:

“Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea,

the birds of the air, and the cattle, and over all the wild animals

and all the creatures that crawl on the ground.”

God created man in his image;

in the image of God he created him;

male and female he created them.

God blessed them, saying: “Be fertile and multiply;

fill the earth and subdue it.

Have dominion over the fish of the sea,

the birds of the air,

and all the living things that move on the earth.”

God looked at everything he had made, and he found it very good.

The word of the Lord.

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,

**“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 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.

The woman who fears the LORD is to be praised

Proverbs 31:10-31 (OT - First Reading)

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 reaches out her hands to the poor,

and extends her arms to the needy.

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.

A reading from the Song of Songs

**Hark! my lover—here he comes springing across the mountains,
leaping across the hills. My lover is like a gazelle
or a young stag.**

**Here he stands behind our wall,
gazing through the windows, peering through the lattices.**

My lover speaks; he says to me,

“Arise, my beloved, my dove, my beautiful one, and come!

“O my dove in the clefts of the rock, in the secret recesses of the cliff,

Let me see you,

let me hear your voice, For your voice is sweet,

and you are lovely.”

My lover belongs to me and I to him.

He says to me:

“Set me as a seal on your heart, as a seal on your arm;

For stern as death is love,

relentless as the nether world is devotion;

its flames are a blazing fire.

Deep waters cannot quench love,

nor floods sweep it away.”

The word of the Lord.

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.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah

The days are coming, says the LORD,

when I will make a new covenant

with the house of Israel and the house of Judah.

It will not be like the covenant I made with their fathers:

the day I took them by the hand

to lead them forth from the land of Egypt.

But this is the covenant which I will make

with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD.

I will place my law within them, and write it upon their hearts;

I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

No longer will they have need to teach

their friends and relatives how to know the LORD.

All, from least to greatest, shall know me, says the LORD.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

If God is for us, who can be against us?

He did not spare his own Son

but handed him over for us all,

how will he not also give us everything else along with him?

What will separate us from the love of Christ?

Will anguish, or distress, or persecution,

or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword?

No, in all these things,

we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us.

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life,

nor angels, nor principalities,

nor present things, nor future things,

nor powers, nor height, nor depth,

nor any other creature

will be able to separate us from the love of God

in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice Romans 12:1-2, 9-18 (NT - Second Reading) Longer form

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

**I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God,
to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice,
holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship.**

**Do not conform yourselves to this age
but be transformed by the renewal of your mind,
that you may discern what is the will of God,
what is good and pleasing and perfect.**

**Let love be sincere; hate what is evil, hold on to what is good;
love one another with mutual affection;
anticipate one another in showing honor.**

Do not grow slack in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.

Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer.

Contribute to the needs of the holy ones, exercise hospitality.

Bless those who persecute you, bless and do not curse them.

Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.

Have the same regard for one another;

do not be haughty but associate with the lowly;

do not be wise in your own estimation.

Do not repay anyone evil for evil;

be concerned for what is noble in the sight of all.

If possible, on your part, live at peace with all.

The word of the Lord.

Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice Romans 12:1-2, 9-18 (NT - Second Reading) Shorter form

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

**I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God,
to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice,
holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship.**

**Do not conform yourselves to this age
but be transformed by the renewal of your mind,
that you may discern what is the will of God,
what is good and pleasing and perfect.**

**Let love be sincere;
hate what is evil,
hold on to what is good;
love one another with mutual affection;
anticipate one another in showing honor.**

**Do not grow slack in zeal,
be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.**

Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer.

Contribute to the needs of the holy ones, exercise hospitality.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power.

Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ?

Whoever is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him.

Do you not know that your body

is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you,

whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?

For you have been purchased at a price.

Therefore glorify God in your body.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters: Strive eagerly for the greatest spiritual gifts.

But I shall show you a still more excellent way.

If I speak in human and angelic tongues but do not have love,

I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal.

And if I have the gift of prophecy

and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge;

if I have all faith so as to move mountains,

but do not have love, I am nothing.

If I give away everything I own,

and if I hand my body over so that I may boast

but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind.

It is not jealous, is not pompous,

it is not inflated, it is not rude,

it does not seek its own interests,

it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury,

it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth.

It bears all things, believes all things,

hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians

Brothers and sisters:

I, a prisoner for the Lord,

urge you to live in a manner worthy of the call you have received,

with all humility and gentleness, with patience,

bearing with one another through love,

striving to preserve the unity of the Spirit

through the bond of peace:

one Body and one Spirit,

as you were also called to the one hope of your call;

one Lord, one faith, one baptism;

one God and Father of all,

who is over all and through all and in all.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians

Brothers and sisters:

Live in love, as Christ loved us and handed himself over for us.

Husbands, love your wives,

even as Christ loved the Church

and handed himself over for her to sanctify her,

cleansing her by the bath of water with the word,

that he might present to himself the Church in splendor,

without spot or wrinkle or any such thing,

that she might be holy and without blemish.

So also husbands should love their wives as their own bodies.

He who loves his wife loves himself.

For no one hates his own flesh

but rather nourishes and cherishes it,

even as Christ does the Church,

because we are members of his Body.

For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother

and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.

This is a great mystery,

but I speak in reference to Christ and the Church.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians

Brothers and sisters:

Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice!

Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near.

Have no anxiety at all, but in everything,

by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving,

make your requests known to God.

Then the peace of God

that surpasses all understanding

will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters,

whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just,

whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious,

if there is any excellence

and if there is anything worthy of praise,

think about these things.

Keep on doing what you have learned

and received and heard and seen.

Then the God of peace will be with you.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians

Brothers and sisters:

Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved,

heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility,

gentleness, and patience,

bearing with one another and forgiving one another,

if one has a grievance against another;

as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do.

And over all these put on love,

that is, the bond of perfection.

And let the peace of Christ control your hearts,

the peace into which you were also called in one Body.

And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly,

as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another,

singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs

with gratitude in your hearts to God.

And whatever you do, in word or in deed,

do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,

giving thanks to God the Father through him.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

Brothers and sisters:

**Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect hospitality,
for through it some have unknowingly entertained angels.**

**Be mindful of prisoners as if sharing their imprisonment,
and of the ill-treated as of yourselves,
for you also are in the body.**

**Let marriage be honored among all
and the marriage bed be kept undefiled.**

**Let your life be free from love of money
but be content with what you have,
for he has said, I will never forsake you or abandon you.**

Thus we may say with confidence:

The Lord is my helper, and I will not be afraid.

The word of the Lord.

Be of one mind, sympathetic, loving toward one another 1 Peter 3:1-9 (NT - Second Reading)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Peter

**Husbands should live with your wives in understanding,
showing honor since we are joint heirs of the gift of life,
so that your prayers may not be hindered.**

**Finally, all of you, be of one mind, sympathetic,
loving toward one another, compassionate, humble.**

**Do not return evil for evil, or insult for insult;
but, on the contrary, a blessing,
because to this you were called,
that you might inherit a blessing.**

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John

Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth.

Now this is how we shall know that we belong to the truth

and reassure our hearts before him

for God is greater than our hearts and knows every- thing.

And his commandment is this:

we should believe in the name of his Son,

Jesus Christ, and love one another just as he commanded us.

Those who keep his commandments remain in him, and he in them,

and the way we know that he remains in us

is from the Spirit that he gave us.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John

**Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God
everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God.**

Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love.

In this way the love of God was revealed to us:

**God sent his only-begotten Son into the world
so that we might have life through him.**

In this is love:

not that we have loved God,

but that he loved us and sent his Son as expiation for our sins.

Beloved, if God so loved us,

we also must love one another.

No one has ever seen God.

Yet, if we love one another, God remains in us,

and his love is brought to perfection in us.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the Book of Revelation

**I, John, heard what sounded like the loud voice
of a great multitude in heaven, saying: "Alleluia!
Salvation, glory, and might belong to our God."**

A voice coming from the throne said:

**"Praise our God, all you his servants,
and you who revere him, small and great."**

**Then I heard something like the sound of a great multitude
or the sound of rushing water or mighty peals of thunder,
as they said: "Alleluia!**

The Lord has established his reign, our God, the almighty.

Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory.

For the wedding day of the Lamb has come,

Blessed are those

who have been called to the wedding feast of the Lamb."

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

**When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain,
and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him.**

He began to teach them, saying:

**“Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.**

Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.

**Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be satisfied.**

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

**Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness,
for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.**

**Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you
and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me.**

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples:

“You are the salt of the earth.

But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned?

It is no longer good for anything

but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

You are the light of the world.

A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden.

Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket;

it is set on a lamp stand,

where it gives light to all in the house.

Just so, your light must shine before others,

that they may see your good deeds

and glorify your heavenly Father.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples:

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’

will enter the Kingdom of heaven,

but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven.

“Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them

will be like a wise man who built his house on rock.

The rain fell, the floods came,

and the winds blew and buffeted the house.

But it did not collapse; it had been set solidly on rock.

And everyone who listens to these words of mine

but does not act on them

will be like a fool who built his house on sand.

The rain fell, the floods came,

and the winds blew and buffeted the house.

And it collapsed and was completely ruined.”

When Jesus finished these words,

the crowds were astonished at his teaching,

for he taught them as one having authority,

and not as their scribes.

The Gospel of the Lord.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples:

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’

will enter the Kingdom of heaven,

but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven.

“Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them

will be like a wise man who built his house on rock.

The rain fell, the floods came,

and the winds blew and buffeted the house.

But it did not collapse;

it had been set solidly on rock.

The Gospel of the Lord.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

One of the Pharisees, a scholar of the law, tested

Jesus by asking,

“Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?”

He said to him,

“You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart,

with all your soul,

and with all your mind.

This is the greatest and the first commandment.

The second is like it:

You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

The whole law and the prophets

depend on these two commandments.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

They are no longer two, but one flesh.

Mark 10:6-9 (Gospel)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Jesus said:

“From the beginning of creation,

God made them male and female.

For this reason

a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife,

and the two shall become one flesh.

So they are no longer two but one flesh.

Therefore what God has joined together,

no human being must separate.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

**There was a wedding in Cana in Galilee,
and the mother of Jesus was there.**

Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding.

**When the wine ran short,
the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine."**

**And Jesus said to her,
"Woman, how does your concern affect me?**

My hour has not yet come."

His mother said to the servers, "Do whatever he tells you."

**Now there were six stone water jars there for Jewish ceremonial washings,
each holding twenty to thirty gallons.**

Jesus told them, "Fill the jars with water."

So they filled them to the brim. Then he told them,

"Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter." So they took it.

**And when the headwaiter tasted the water that had become wine,
without knowing where it came from**

(although the servants who had drawn the water knew),

the headwaiter called the bridegroom and said to him,

**"Everyone serves good wine first,
and then when people have drunk freely, an inferior one;
but you have kept the good wine until now."**

**Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs in Cana in Galilee
and so revealed his glory, and his disciples began to believe in him.**

The Gospel of the Lord.

Remain in my love

John 15:9-12 (Gospel)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples:

“As the Father loves me, so I also love you.

Remain in my love.

If you keep my commandments,

you will remain in my love,

just as I have kept my Father’s commandments

and remain in his love.

“I have told you this so that my joy might be in you

and your joy might be complete.

This is my commandment:

love one another as I love you.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples:

“This is my commandment:

love one another as I love you.

No one has greater love than this,

to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.

You are my friends if you do what I command you.

I have called you friends,

because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father.

It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you

and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain,

so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said:

**“Holy Father, I pray not only for these,
but also for those who will believe in me through their word,
so that they may all be one,
as you, Father, are in me and I in you,
that they also may be in us,
that the world may believe that you sent me.
And I have given them the glory you gave me,
so that they may be one, as we are one,
I in them and you in me,
that they may be brought to perfection as one,
that the world may know that you sent me,
and that you loved them even as you loved me.”**

The Gospel of the Lord.