



## First Readings (Old Testament)

### A Reading from the Book of Genesis 1:26-28.31

God said, 'Let us make men in our own image, in the likeness of ourselves, and let them be masters of the fish of the sea, the birds of heaven, the cattle, all the wild beasts and all the reptiles that crawl upon the earth.' God created man in the image of himself,

in the image of God he created him, male and female he created them.

God blessed them, saying to them, 'Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth and conquer it. Be masters of the fish of the sea, the birds of heaven and all the living animals on the earth.'

God saw all he had made, and indeed it was very good.

The Word of the Lord.

### A Reading from the Book of Genesis 2:18-24

The Lord God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone. I will make him a helpmate.' So from the soil the Lord God fashioned all the wild beasts and all the birds of heaven. These he brought to the man to see what he would call them; each one was to bear the name the man would give it. The man gave names to all the cattle, all the birds of heaven and all the wild beasts. But no helpmate suitable for man was found for him. So the Lord God made the man fall into a deep sleep. And while he slept, he took one of his ribs and enclosed it in flesh. The Lord God built the rib he had taken from the man into a woman, and brought her to the man. The man said: 'This at last is bone from my bones, and flesh from my flesh!

This is to be called woman, for this was taken from man.'

This is why a man leaves his father and mother and joins himself to his wife,  
and they become one body.

The Word of the Lord.

### A Reading from the Book of Sirach

Happy the husband of a really good wife, the number of his days will be doubled, a perfect wife is the joy of her husband, he will live out the years of his life in peace. A good wife is the best of portions, reserved for those who fear the Lord, rich or poor, they will be glad of heart, cheerful of face, whatever the reason. The grace of a wife will charm her husband, her accomplishments will make him stronger. A loving wife is a gift from the Lord. A modest wife is a boom twice over,

a chaste character, cannot be weighed on scales.

Like the sun rising over the mountains of the Lord, is the beauty of a good wife in a well kept house.

The Word of the Lord.

### A Reading from the Book of Ruth

Wherever you go, I shall go. Wherever you live, I shall live. Your people will be my people and your God will be my God too. Wherever you die, I shall die, and there shall I be buried beside you.

We shall be together forever, and our love will be the gift of life.

The Word of the Lord.

### A Reading from the Book of Ecclesiasticus

Two can accomplish more than one for a result can be much better. If one fails the other pulls them up.

But if you fail when you are alone, you are in trouble.

Also two gain warmth from each other. For how can you be warm alone?

And one standing alone can be attacked and defeated but two can stand side by side and conquer.

The Word of the Lord.

## Wedding Readings

### **A Reading from the Book of Proverbs 31:10-13. 19-20. 30-31**

The woman who fears the Lord is the one to praise. A perfect wife — who can find her? She is far beyond the price of pearls. Her husband's heart has confidence in her, from her he will derive no little profit. Advantage and not hurt she brings him all the days of her life. She is always busy with wool and with flax, she does her work with eager hands. She sets her hands to the distaff, her fingers grasp the spindle. She holds out her hand to the poor, she opens her arms to the needy. Charm is deceitful, and beauty empty; the woman who is wise is the one to praise. Give her a share in what her hands have worked for, and let her works tell her praises at the city gates. The Word of the Lord.

### **A Reading from the Book of Tobit 8:4-8**

On the evening of their marriage, Tobias said to Sarah, 'You and I must pray and petition our Lord to win his grace and protection.' They began praying for protection, and this was how he began: 'You are blessed, O God of our fathers; blessed, too, is your name for ever and ever. Let the heavens bless you and all things you have made for evermore. It was you who created Adam, you who created Eve his wife to be his help and support; and from these two the human race was born. It was you who said, "It is not right that the man should be alone; let us make him a helpmate like himself." And so I do not take my sister for any lustful motive; I do it in singleness of heart. Be kind enough to have pity on her and on me and bring us to old age together.' And together they said, 'Amen, Amen'.  
The Word of the Lord.

### **A Reading from the Song of Songs 2:8-10. 14. 16; 8:6-7**

Love is strong as Death. I hear my Beloved. See how he comes leaping on the mountains, bounding over the hills. My Beloved is like a gazelle, like a young stag. See where he stands behind our wall. He looks in at the window, he peers through the lattice. My Beloved lifts up his voice, he says to me, 'Come then, my love, my lovely one, come. My dove, hiding in the clefts of the rock. In the coverts of the cliff, show me your face, let me hear your voice; for your voice is sweet and your face is beautiful.' My beloved is mine and I am his. Set me like a seal on your heart, like a seal on your arm. For love is strong as Death, passion as relentless as Sheol. The flash of it is a flash of fire, a flame of the Lord himself.  
Love no floods can quench, no torrents drown. The Word of the Lord.

### **A Reading from the Book of Ecclesiasticus 26:1-4. 13-16**

Like the sun rising is the beauty of a good wife in a well-kept house. Happy the husband of a really good wife; the number of his days will be doubled. A perfect wife is the joy of her husband, he will live out the years of his life in peace. A good wife is the best of portions, reserved for those who fear the Lord; rich or poor, they will be glad of heart; cheerful of face, whatever the season.  
The grace of a wife will charm her husband, her accomplishments will make him stronger.  
A silent wife is a gift from the Lord, no price can be put on a well-trained character.  
A modest wife is a boon twice over, a chaste character cannot be weighed on scales.  
Like the sun rising over the mountains of the Lord is the beauty of a good wife in a well-kept house.  
The Word of the Lord.

### **A Reading from the Prophet Jeremiah 31:31-34**

I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel and the House of Judah. See, the days are coming — it is the Lord who speaks, when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel and the House of Judah, but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. No, this is the covenant I shall make with the House of Israel when those days arrive — it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour, or brother to say to brother, 'Learn to know the Lord!'  
No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest — it is the Lord who speaks.  
The Word of the Lord.



## Second Readings (New Testament)

### **A Reading from the First Letter of St John 3:18-24**

Our love is to be something real and active. My children, our love is not to be just words or mere talk, but something real and active; only by this can we be certain that we are children of the truth and be able to quieten our conscience in his presence, whatever accusations it may raise against us, because God is greater than our conscience and he knows everything. My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience, we need not be afraid in God's presence, and whatever we ask him, we shall receive, because we keep his commandments and live the kind of life that he wants. His commandments are these: that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as he told us to.

Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him.

We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.

The Word of the Lord.

### **A Reading from the First Letter of St John 4:7-12**

My dear people, let us love one another since love comes from God and everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God. Anyone who fails to love can never have known God, because God is love. God's love for us was revealed when God sent into the world his only Son so that we could have life through him; this is the love I mean: not our love for God, but God's love for us when he sent his Son to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away.

My dear people, since God has loved us so much, we too should love one another.

No one has ever seen God; but as long as we love one another

God will live in us and his love will be complete in us.

The Word of the Lord.

### **A Reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Romans 8:31-35. 37-39**

Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ. With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us — he rose from the dead and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us. Nothing therefore can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of him who loved us. For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

## Wedding Readings

### **A Reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Romans 12:1-2. 9-13**

Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do. Do not let your love be a pretence, but sincerely prefer good to evil. Love each other as much as brothers should, and have a profound respect for each other. Work for the Lord with untiring effort and with great earnestness of spirit. If you have hope, this will make you cheerful. Do not give up if trials come; and keep on praying. If any of the saints are in need you must share with them; and you should make hospitality your special care.

The Word of the Lord.

### **A Reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Romans 15:1-3. 5-7. 13**

Without thinking of ourselves, each of us should think of his neighbours and help them to become stronger Christians. Christ did not think of himself. And may God who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It can only be to God's glory, then for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. May the God of hope bring you such joy and peace in your faith that the power of the Holy Spirit will remove all bounds to hope.

The Word of the Lord.

### **A Reading from the First Letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 12:31-13:8**

If I am without love, it will do me no good whatever. Be ambitious for the higher gifts.

And I am going to show you a way that is better than any of them.

If I have all the eloquence of men or of angels, but speak without love,

I am simply a gong booming or a cymbal clashing.

If I have the gift of prophecy, understanding all the mysteries there are, and knowing everything, and if I have faith in all its fullness, to move mountains, but without love, then I am nothing at all.

If I give away all that I possess, piece by piece, and if I even let them take my body to burn it, but am without love, it will do me no good whatever.

Love is always patient and kind; it is never jealous; love is never boastful or conceited; it is never rude or selfish; it does not take offence, and is not resentful.

Love takes no pleasure in other people's sins but delights in the truth; it is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope, and to endure whatever comes. Love does not come to an end.

The Word of the Lord.

### **A Reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Ephesians 4:1-6**

I, the prisoner in the Lord, implore you to lead a life worthy of your vocation. Bear with one another charitably, in complete selflessness, gentleness and patience. Do all you can to preserve the unity of the Spirit by the peace that binds you together. There is one Body, one Spirit, just as you were called into one and the same hope when you were called. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God who is Father of all, through all and within all.

The Word of the Lord.

**A Reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Ephesians 5:2.21-33**

This mystery has many implications; but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church.

Follow Christ by loving as he loved you, giving himself up in our place. Give way to one another in obedience to Christ. Wives should regard their husbands as they regard the Lord, since as Christ is head of the Church and saves the whole body, so is a husband the head of his wife; and as the Church submits to Christ, so should wives to their husbands, in everything. Husbands should love their wives just as Christ loved the Church and sacrificed himself for her to make her holy. He made her clean by washing her in water with a form of words, so that when he took her to himself she would be glorious, with no speck or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and faultless. In the same way, husbands must love their wives as they love their own bodies; for a man to love his wife is for him to love himself. A man never hates his own body, but he feeds it and looks after it; and that is the way Christ treats the Church, because it is his body — and we are its living parts. For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one body.

This mystery has many implications; but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church.

To sum up; you too, each one of you, must love his wife as he loves himself;  
and let every wife respect her husband.

The Word of the Lord.

**A Reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Philippians 4:4-9**

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near. There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, fill your minds with everything that is true, everything that is noble, everything that is good and pure, everything that we love and honour, and everything that can be thought virtuous or worthy of praise.

Keep doing all the things that you learnt from me and have been taught by me and have heard or seen that I do. Then the God of peace will be with you.

The Word of the Lord.

**A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Colossians.**

You are God's chosen race, his saints; He loves you and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another, forgive each other, as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you, now you must do the same. And may the peace of Christ, reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as part of one body. Always be thankful. Teach each other and advise each other in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

The Word of the Lord.

**A Reading from the Book of the Apocalypse 19:1.5-9**

*(It is appropriate to use this reading as the First Reading in the Easter Season)*

Happy are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb. I, John, seemed to hear the great sound of a huge crowd in heaven, singing, 'Alleluia! Victory and glory and power to our God!' Then a voice came from the throne; it said, 'Praise our God, you servants of his and all who, great or small, revere him.' And I heard what seemed to be the voices of a huge crowd, like the sound of the ocean or the great roar of thunder, answering, 'Alleluia! The reign of the Lord our God Almighty has begun; let us be glad and joyful and give glory to God, because this is the time for the marriage of the Lamb. His bride is ready, and she has been able to dress herself in dazzling white linen,

because her linen is made of the good deeds of the saints.' The angel said, 'Write this, "Happy are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb."'

The Word of the Lord.



## Gospel

### **A Reading from the Gospel according to John**

Jesus said to his disciples:

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love.

If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love;  
just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in His love.

I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

The Gospel of the Lord.

### **A Reading from the Gospel according to Mark**

Jesus said: From the beginning of creation God made them male and female. That is why a man must leave father and mother, and the two become one body. They are no longer two, therefore, but one body.

So then, what God has united, man must not divide.

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 becomes tasteless, what can make it salty again? It is good for nothing, and can only be thrown out & trampled underfoot by men.' You are the light of the world. A city built on a hilltop cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lampstand where it shines for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine in the sight of men, so that, seeing your good works, they may give praise to your Father in heaven.

The Gospel of the Lord.

### **A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John 15:9-12**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved 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 own joy may be in you and your joy be complete.

This is my commandment: love one another, as I loved you.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

### **A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew 7:21-24-25**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'It is not those who say to me, "Lord, Lord", who will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the person who does the will of my Father in heaven. 'Therefore, everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a sensible man who built his house on rock. Rain came down, floods rose, gales blew and hurled themselves against the house, and it did not fall:

it was founded on rock.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

**A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew 22:35-40**

This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it. A lawyer, to disconcert Jesus, put a question, 'Master, which is the greatest commandment of the Law?' Jesus said, 'You must 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 resembles it: You must love your neighbour as yourself.'

On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

**A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark 10:6-9**

They are no longer two, but one body. Jesus said, 'From the beginning of creation God made them male and female. This is why a man must leave father and mother, and the two become one body. They are no longer two, therefore, but one body. So then, what God has united, man must not divide.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

**A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John 2:1-11**

There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee. The mother of Jesus was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited. When they ran out of wine, since the wine provided for the wedding was all finished, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no more wine.' Jesus said, 'Woman why turn to me? My hour has not come yet.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' There were six stone water jars standing there, meant for the ablutions that are customary among the Jews: each could hold twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, 'Fill the jars with water,' and they filled them to the brim. 'Draw some out now,' he told them, 'and take it to the steward.' They did this; the steward tasted the water, and it had turned into wine. Having no idea where it came from — only the servants who had drawn the water knew — the steward called the bridegroom and said, 'People generally serve the best wine first, and keep the cheaper sort till the guests have had plenty to drink, but you have kept the best wine till now.'

This was the first of the signs given by Jesus: it was given at Cana in Galilee.

He let his glory be seen, and his disciples believed in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John 15:12-16**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'This is my commandment: love one another, as I have loved you. A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends, if you do what I command you. I shall not call you servants any more, because a servant does not know his master's business; I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father.'

You did not choose me, no, I chose you; and I commissioned you to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last; and then the Father will give you anything you ask him in my name.'

The Gospel of the Lord.