

## **OLD TESTAMENT READINGS**

- OT-1 Genesis 1:26-31a**
- OT-2 Genesis 2:18-24**
- OT-3 Genesis 12:1-3**
- OT-4 Genesis 24:48-51,  
58-67**
- OT-5 Numbers 6:22-27**
- OT-6 Deuteronomy 7:6,  
9,11-13**
- OT-7 Deuteronomy 10:  
12-13,20-21**
- OT-8 Ruth 1:16-17**
- OT-9 Tobit 7:9b-10,11b-  
14**
- OT-10 Tobit 8:5-7**
- OT-11 Proverbs 31:10-31**
- OT-12 Ecclesiastes 4:9-12**
- OT-13 Song of Songs 2:8-  
14,16a; 8:6-7**
- OT-14 Sirach 6:5-12,14-  
15**
- OT-15 Sirach 26:1-4,13-  
16**
- OT-16 Sirach 42:15-16,  
21-25**
- OT-17 Isaiah 44:1-5**
- OT-18 Isaiah 54:5,10,13**
- OT-19 Isaiah 61:9-11**
- OT-20 Jeremiah 31:31-  
32,33-34**
- OT-21 Hosea 2:16,21-22**
- OT-22 Micah 6:6-8**

**(Genesis 1:26-31a)**

**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 also said:**

**“See, I give you every seed-bearing plant  
all over the earth  
and every tree that has seed-bearing fruit on it  
to be your food;  
and to all the animals of the land, all the birds  
of the air,  
and all the living creatures that crawl  
on the ground,  
I give all the green plants for food.”**

**And so it happened.**

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

**The Word of the Lord.**

**(Genesis 2:18-24)**

**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 the 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 flesh.**

**The Word of the Lord.**

**(Genesis 12:1-3)**

**A reading from the Book of Genesis.**

**The Lord said to Abram:**

**“Go forth from the land of your kinsfolk  
and from your father’s house to a land  
that I will show you.**

**“I will make of you a great nation,  
and I will bless you;  
I will make your name great,  
so that you will be a blessing.  
I will bless those who bless you  
and curse those who curse you.  
All the communities of the earth  
shall find blessing in you.”**

**The Word of the Lord.**

**(Genesis 24:48-51,58-67)**

**A reading from the book of Genesis.**

**The servant of Abraham said to Laban:**

**“I bowed down in worship to the Lord,  
blessing the Lord, the God of my master**

**Abraham,  
who had led me on the right road  
to obtain the daughter of my master’s kinsman  
for his son.**

**If, therefore, you have in mind to show true loyalty  
to my master, let me know;**

**but if not, let me know that, too.**

**I can then proceed accordingly.”**

**Laban and his household said in reply:**

**“This thing comes from the Lord;  
we can say nothing to you either for or against it.  
Here is Rebekah, ready for you; take her with you,  
that she may become the wife of your master’s son,  
as the Lord has said.”**

**So they called Rebekah and asked her,**

**“Do you wish to go with this man?”**

**She answered, “I do.”**

**At this they allowed their sister Rebekah and her nurse  
to take leave,**

**along with Abraham’s servant and his men.**

**Invoking a blessing on Rebekah, they said:**

**“Sister, may you grow into thousands of myriads;  
And may your descendants gain possession  
of the gates of their enemies!”**

**Then Rebekah and her maids started out;  
they mounted their camels and followed the man.  
So the servant took Rebekah and went on his way.  
Meanwhile Isaac had gone from Beer-lahai-roi  
and was living in the region of the Negeb.  
One day toward evening he went out in the field,  
and as he looked around,  
he noticed that camels were approaching.  
Rebekah, too, was looking about,  
and when she saw him,  
she alighted from her camel and asked the servant,  
“Who is the man out there, walking  
through the fields toward us?”  
“That is my master,” replied the servant.  
Then she covered herself with her veil.  
The servant recounted to Isaac all the things  
he had done.  
Then Isaac took Rebekah into his tent;  
he married her,  
and thus she became his wife.  
In his love for her Isaac found solace after the death  
of his mother Sarah.**

**The Word of the Lord.**

**(Numbers 6:22-27)**

**A reading from the book of Numbers.**

**The Lord said to Moses:**

**“Speak to Aaron and his sons and tell them:**

**This is how you shall bless the Israelites.**

**Say to them:**

**The Lord bless you and keep you!**

**The Lord let his face shine upon you,  
and be gracious to you!**

**The Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace!**

**So shall they invoke my name upon the Israelites,  
and I will bless them.”**

**The Word of the Lord.**



**(Deuteronomy 7:6,9,11-13)**

**A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.**

**Moses said to the people:**

**“You are a people sacred to the Lord, your God;  
he has chosen you from all the nations on the face  
of the earth**

**to be a people peculiarly his own.**

**Understand, then, that the Lord, your God,  
is God indeed,**

**the faithful God who keeps his merciful covenant  
down to the thousandth generation  
toward those who love him and keep his  
commandments.**

**You shall therefore carefully observe the  
commandments,**

**the statutes and the decrees that I enjoin on you  
today.”**

**As your reward for heeding these decrees  
and observing them carefully,**

**the Lord, your God, will keep with you  
the merciful covenant**

**which he promised on oath to your fathers.**

**He will love and bless and multiply you;**

**he will bless the fruit of your womb  
and the produce of your soil,**

**your grain and wine and oil,  
the issue of your herds and the young  
of your flocks,**

**in the land which he swore to your fathers  
he would give you.”**

**The Word of the Lord.**

**(Deuteronomy 10:12-13,20-21)**

**A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.**

**Moses said to the people:**

**“And now, what does the Lord, your God, ask of you  
but to fear the Lord, your God, and follow his ways  
exactly,**

**to love and serve the Lord, your God,  
with all your heart and all your soul,**

**to keep the commandments and statutes of the Lord  
which I enjoin on you today for your own good?**

**The Lord, your God, shall you fear, and him shall you  
serve;**

**hold fast to him and swear by his name.**

**He is your glory, he, your God,**

**who has done for you those great and terrible things  
which your own eyes have seen.”**

**The Word of the Lord.**

**(Ruth 1:16-17)**

**A reading from the Book of Ruth.**

**“Wherever you go, I will go, wherever you lodge  
I will lodge,  
your people shall be my people,  
and your God my God.**

**Wherever you die, I will die, and there be buried.  
May the Lord do so and so to me, and more besides,  
if anything but death separates me from you!”**

**The Word of the Lord.**

**(Tobit 7:9b-10,11b-14)**

**A reading from the book of Tobit.**

**Tobiah said to Raphael,**

**“Brother Azariah, ask Raguel to let me marry  
my kinswoman Sarah.”**

**Raguel overheard the words; so he said to the boy:**

**“Eat and drink and be merry tonight,**

**for no man is more entitled**

**to marry my daughter Sarah than you, brother.**

**Besides, not even I have the right to give her**

**to anyone but you,**

**because you are my closest relative.**

**She is yours according to the decree of the Book  
of Moses.**

**Your marriage to her has been decided in heaven!**

**Take your kinswoman;**

**from now on you are her love,**

**and she is your beloved.**

**She is yours today and ever after.**

**And tonight, son, may the Lord of heaven prosper  
you both.**

**May he grant you mercy and peace.”**

**Then Raguel called his daughter Sarah,**

**and she came to him.**

**He took her by the hand and gave her to Tobiah**

**with the words:**

**“Take her according to the law.**

**According to the decree written in the Book of Moses  
she is your wife.**

**Take her and bring her back safely to your father.  
And may the God heaven grant both of you peace  
and prosperity.”**

**Raguel then called Sarah’s mother and told her  
to bring a scroll,  
so that he might draw up a marriage contract  
stating that he gave Sarah to Tobiah as his wife  
according to the decree of the Mosaic law.**

**Her mother brought the scroll,  
and Raguel drew up the contract,  
to which they affixed their seals.**

**Afterward they began to eat and drink.**

**The Word of the Lord.**

**(Tobit 8:4b-8)**

**A reading from the book of Tobit.**

**On their wedding night Tobiah arose from bed  
and said to his wife,**

**“My love, get up.**

**Let us pray and beg our Lord to have mercy on us  
and to grant us deliverance.**

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

**And they began to say:**

**“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.**

**(Proverbs 31:10-31)**

**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 loving hands.  
Like merchant ships,  
she secures her provisions from afar.  
She rises while it is still night,  
and distributes food to her household.  
She picks out a field to purchase;  
out of her earnings she plants a vineyard.  
She is girt about with strength  
and sturdy are her arms.  
She enjoys the success of her dealings;  
at night her lamp is undimmed.  
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.  
She fears not the snow for her household;  
all her charges are doubly clothed.  
She makes her own coverlets;  
fine linen and purple are her clothing.  
Her husband is prominent at the city gates  
as he sits with the elders of the land.**

**She makes garments and sells them,  
and stocks the merchants with belts.  
She is clothed with strength and dignity,  
and she laughs at the days to come.  
She opens her mouth in wisdom  
and on her tongue is kindly counsel.  
She watches the conduct of her household,  
and eats not her food in idleness.  
Her children rise up and praise her;  
her husband, too, extols her:  
“Many are the women of proven worth,  
but you have excelled them all.”  
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.**



**(Ecclesiastes 4:9-12)**

**A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes.**

**Two are better than one:**

**they get a good wage for their labor.**

**If the one falls, the other will lift up his companion.**

**Woe to the solitary man!**

**For if he should fall, he has no one to lift him up.**

**So also, if two sleep together,**

**they keep each other warm.**

**How can one alone keep warm?**

**Where one alone may be overcome,**

**two together can resist.**

**A three-ply cord is not easily broken.**

**The Word of the Lord.**

**(Song of Songs 2:8-14,16a; 8:6-7a)**

**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!**

**“For see, the winter is past,  
the rains are over and gone.  
The flowers appear on the earth,  
the time of pruning the vines has come,  
and the song of the dove is heard in our land.**

**The fig tree puts forth its figs,  
and the vines, in bloom, give forth fragrance.  
Arise, my beloved, 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.**

**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.**

**(Sirach 6:5-12,14-15)**

**A reading from the book of Sirach.**

**A kind mouth multiplies friends and appeases enemies,  
And gracious lips prompt friendly greetings.**

**Let your acquaintances be many,  
but one in a thousand your confidant.**

**When you gain a friend, first test him,  
and be not too ready to trust him.**

**For one sort is a friend when it suits him,  
but he will not be with you in time of distress.**

**Another is a friend who becomes an enemy,  
and tells of the quarrel to your shame.**

**Another is a friend, a boon companion,  
who will not be with you when sorrow comes.**

**When things go well, he is your other self,  
and lords it over your servants.**

**A faithful friend is a sturdy shelter;  
he who finds one finds a treasure.**

**A faithful friend is beyond price,  
no sum can balance his worth.**

**A faithful friend is a life-saving remedy,  
such as the one who fears God finds;**

**For he who fears God behaves accordingly,  
and his friend will be like himself.**

**The Word of the Lord.**

**(Sirach 26:1-4,13-16)**

**A reading from the book of Sirach.**

**Happy 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 person.**

**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 42:15-16,21-25)**

**A reading from the book of Sirach.**

**Now will I recall God's works;  
    what I have seen, I will describe.  
At God's word were his works brought into being;  
    they do his will as he has ordained for them.  
As the rising sun is clear to all,  
    so the glory of the Lord fills all his works.  
Perennial is his almighty wisdom;  
    he is from all eternity one and the same,  
With nothing added, nothing taken away;  
    no need of a counselor for him!  
How beautiful are all his works!  
    even to the spark and fleeting vision!  
The universe lives and abides forever;  
    to meet each need, each creature is preserved.  
All of them differ, one from another,  
    yet none of them has God made in vain,  
For each in turn, as it comes, is good;  
    can one ever see enough of their splendor?**

**The Word of the Lord.**

**(Isaiah 44:1-5)**

**A reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah.**

**Hear then, O Jacob, my servant,**

**Israel, whom I have chosen.**

**Thus says the Lord who made you,**

**your help, who formed you from the womb:**

**Fear not, O Jacob, my servant,**

**the darling whom I have chosen.**

**I will pour out water upon the thirsty ground,**

**and streams upon the dry land;**

**I will pour out my spirit upon your offspring,**

**and my blessing upon your descendants.**

**They shall spring up amid the verdure**

**like poplars beside the flowing waters.**

**One shall say, "I am the Lord's,"**

**another shall be named after Jacob,**

**And this one shall write on his hand,**

**"The Lord's,"**

**and Israel shall be his surname.**

**The Word of the Lord.**

**(Isaiah 54:5,10,13)**

**A reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah.**

**The One who has become your husband is your Maker;  
his name is the Lord of hosts;  
your redeemer is the Holy One of Israel,  
called God of all the earth.**

**Though the mountains leave their place  
and the hills be shaken,  
my love shall never leave you  
nor my covenant of peace be shaken,  
says the Lord, who has mercy on you.**

**All your children shall be taught by the Lord,  
and great shall be the peace of your children.**

**The Word of the Lord.**



**(Isaiah 61:9-11)**

**A reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah.**

**Thus says the Lord:**

**Their descendants shall be renowned**

**among the nations,**

**and their offspring among the peoples;**

**All who see them shall acknowledge them**

**as a race the Lord has blessed.**

**I rejoice heartily in the Lord,**

**in my God is the joy of my soul;**

**for he has clothed me with a robe of salvation**

**and wrapped me in a mantle of justice,**

**like a bridegroom adorned with a diadem,**

**like a bride bedecked with her jewels.**

**As the earth brings forth its plants,**

**and a garden makes its growth spring up,**

**so will the Lord God make justice and praise**

**spring up before all the nations.**

**The Word of the Lord.**

**(Jeremiah 31:31-32,33-34)**

**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.**

**(Hosea 2:16,21-22)**

**A reading from the book of the prophet Hosea.**

**Thus says the Lord: So I will allure her;**

**I will lead her into the desert**

**and speak to her heart.**

**I will espouse you to me forever:**

**I will espouse you in right and in justice,**

**in love and in mercy;**

**I will espouse you in fidelity,**

**and you shall know the Lord.**

**The Word of the Lord.**

**(Micah 6:6-8)**

**A reading from the Book of the Prophet Micah.**

**With what shall I come before the Lord,  
and bow before God most high?**

**Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,  
with calves a year old?**

**Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams  
with myriad streams of oil?**

**Shall I give my first-born for my crime,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?**

**You have been told, O man, what is good,  
and what the Lord requires of you:**

**Only to do the right and to love goodness,  
and to walk humbly with your God.**

**The Word of the Lord.**

## **NEW TESTAMENT READINGS**

- NT-1 Romans 8:31b-35,  
37-39**
- NT-2 Romans 12:1-2,9-  
18**
- NT-3 Romans 15:1b-  
3a,5-7,13**
- NT-4 1 Corinthians 6:  
13c-15a, 17-20**
- NT-5 1 Corinthians 12:  
31-13:13**
- NT-6 Galatians 5:16-  
17,22-23a,24-25**
- NT-7 Ephesians 3:14-19**
- NT-8 Ephesians 4:1-6**
- NT-9 Ephesians 5:2a,25-  
32**
- NT-10 Philippians 2:1-5**
- NT-11 Philippians 4:4-9**
- NT-12 Colossians 3:12-17**
- NT-13 1 Thessalonians 5:  
13b-24**
- NT-14 Hebrews 13:1-  
2,4a,5-6**
- NT-15 1 John 2:7-10**
- NT-16 1 John 3:18-24**
- NT-17 1 John 4:7-12**
- NT-18 Revelation 19:1,5-  
9a**
- NT-19 Revelation 22:12-  
14,16-17,20**

**(Romans 8:31b-35,37-39)**

**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 who 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?**

**Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones?**

**It is God who acquits us.**

**Who will condemn?**

**It is Christ Jesus who died, rather, was raised,**

**who also is at the right hand of God,**

**who indeed intercedes for us.**

**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.**

**(Romans 12:1-2,9-18)**

**A reading 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.**



**(Romans 15:1b-3a,5-7,13)**

**A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Romans.**

**Brothers and sisters:**

**We ought to put up with the failings of the weak  
and not to please ourselves;  
let each of us please our neighbor for the good,  
for building up.**

**For Christ did not please himself.**

**May the God of endurance and encouragement  
grant you to think in harmony with one another,  
in keeping with Christ Jesus,  
that with one accord you may with one voice  
glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you,  
for the glory of God.**

**May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace  
in believing,  
so that you may abound in hope by the power  
of the Holy Spirit.**

**The Word of the Lord.**

**(1 Corinthians 5:13a-15a,17-20)**

**A reading from the first letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.**

**Brothers and sisters:**

**The body is not for immorality, but for the Lord,  
and the Lord is for the body;  
God raised the Lord and will also raise us  
by his power.**

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

**But whoever is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit  
with him.**

**Avoid immorality.**

**Every other sin a person commits is outside the body,  
but the immoral person sins against his own body.**

**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.**

**(1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13)**

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

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

**But I will 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, love 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.**

**If there are prophecies, they will be brought to nothing;  
if tongues, they will cease;  
if knowledge, it will be brought to nothing.**

**For we know partially and we prophesy partially,  
but when the perfect comes, the partial  
will pass away.**

**When I was a child, I used to talk as a child,  
think as a child, reason as a child;  
when I became a man, I put aside childish things.**

**At present we see indistinctly, as in a mirror,  
but then face to face.**

**At present I know partially;  
then I shall know fully, as I am fully known.**

**So faith, hope, love remain, these three;  
but the greatest of these is love.**

**The Word of the Lord.**

**(Galatians 5:16-17,22-23a,24-25)**

**A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Galatians.**

**Brothers and sisters, live by the Spirit  
and you will certainly not gratify the desire  
of the flesh.**

**For the flesh has desires against the Spirit,  
and the Spirit against the flesh;  
these are opposed to each other,  
so that you may not do what you want.**

**In contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace,  
patience, kindness, generosity,  
faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.**

**Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified  
their flesh  
with its passions and desires.**

**If we live in the Spirit, let us also follow the Spirit.**

**The Word of the Lord.**

**(Ephesians 3:14-19)**

**A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians.**

**Brothers and sisters:**

**For this reason I kneel before the Father,  
from whom every family in heaven and on earth  
is named,  
that he may grant you in accord with the riches  
of his glory  
to be strengthened with power through his Spirit  
in the inner self,  
and that Christ may dwell in your hearts  
through faith;  
that you, rooted and grounded in love,  
may have strength to comprehend  
with all the holy ones  
what is the breadth and length and height and  
depth,  
and to know the love of Christ that surpasses  
knowledge,  
so that you may be filled with all the fullness  
of God.**

**The Word of the Lord.**

**(Ephesians 4:1-6)**

**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.**

**(Ephesians 5:2a,25-32)**

**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.**



**(Philippians 2:1-5)**

**A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians.**

**Brothers and sisters:**

**If there is any encouragement in Christ,  
any solace in love,  
any participation in the Spirit,  
any compassion and mercy,  
complete my joy by being of the same mind,  
with the same love,  
united in heart, thinking one thing.**

**Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory;  
rather, humbly regard others as more important  
than yourselves,  
each looking out not for your own interests,  
but also for those of others.**

**Have among yourselves the same attitude  
that is also yours in Christ Jesus.**

**The Word of the Lord.**

**(Philippians 4:4-9)**

**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 in me.**

**Then the God of peace will be with you.**

**The Word of the Lord.**

**(Colossians 3:12-17)**

**A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians.**

**Brothers and sisters:**

**Put on then, 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.**

**(1 Thessalonians 5:13b-24)**

**A reading from the first letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians.**

**Brothers and sisters:**

**We urge you, be at peace among yourselves.**

**Admonish the idle, cheer the fainthearted,**

**support the weak, be patient with all.**

**See that no one returns evil for evil;**

**rather, always seek what is good both for each other  
and for all.**

**Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing.**

**In all circumstances give thanks,**

**for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.**

**Do not quench the Spirit.**

**Do not despise prophetic utterances.**

**Test everything; retain what is good.**

**Refrain from every kind of evil.**

**May the God of peace himself make you perfectly holy**

**and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body,**

**be preserved blameless for the coming**

**of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

**The one who calls you is faithful,**

**and he will also accomplish it.**

**The Word of the Lord.**

**(Hebrews 13:1-4a,5-6)**

**Brothers and sisters:**

**Let brotherly 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.**

**(1 John 2:7-10)**

**A reading from the first letter of Saint John.**

**Beloved, I am writing no new commandment to you  
but an old commandment that you had  
from the beginning.**

**The old commandment is the word  
that you have heard.**

**And yet I do write a new commandment to you,  
which holds true in him and among you,  
for the darkness is passing away,  
and the true light is already shining.**

**Whoever says he is in the light,  
yet hates his brother, is still in the darkness.**

**Whoever loves his brother remains in the light,  
and there is nothing in him to cause a fall.**

**The Word of the Lord.**

**(1 John 3:18-24)**

**A reading from the first letter of 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  
in whatever our hearts condemn,  
for God is greater than our hearts  
and knows everything.**

**Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us,  
we have confidence in God  
and receive from him whatever we ask,  
because we keep his commandments  
and do what pleases him.**

**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.**

**(1 John 4:7-12)**

**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.**



**(Revelation 19:1,5-9a)**

**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,  
his bride has made herself ready.**

**She was allowed to wear a bright, clean linen  
garment.”**

**(The linen represents the righteous deeds  
of the holy ones.)**

**Then the angel said to me, “Write this:  
Blessed are those who have been called  
to the wedding feast of the Lamb.”**

**The Word of the Lord.**

**(Revelation 22:12-14,16-17,20)**

**A reading from the book of Revelation.**

**I, John, heard a voice saying to me:**

**“Behold, I am coming soon.**

**I bring with me the recompense I will give to each  
according to his deeds.**

**I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last,  
the beginning and the end.”**

**Blessed are they who wash their robes  
so as to have the right to the tree of life  
and enter the city through its gates.**

**“I, Jesus, sent my angel to give you this testimony  
for the churches.**

**I am the root and offspring of David,  
the bright morning star.”**

**The Spirit and the bride say, “Come.”**

**Let the hearer say, “Come.”**

**Let the one who thirsts come forward,  
and the one who wants it receive the gift  
of life-giving water.**

**The one who gives this testimony says,**

**“Yes, I am coming soon.”**

**Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!**

**The Word of the Lord.**

## **GOSPEL READINGS**

**GOS-1 Matthew 5:1-12a**

**GOS-2 Matthew 5:13-16**

**GOS-3 Matthew 6:25-33**

**GOS-4 Matthew 7:21,24-  
29**

**GOS-5 Matthew 13:1-9**

**GOS-6 Matthew 19:3-6**

**GOS-7 Matthew 22:34-40**

**GOS-8 Mark 10:6-9**

**GOS-9 John 2:1-11**

**GOS-10 John 13:34-35**

**GOS-11 John 15:9-17**

**GOS-12 John 17:20-26**

**(Matthew 5:1-12a)**

**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.**

**(Matthew 5:13-16)**

**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 lampstand,**

**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.**

**(Matthew 6:25-33)**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.**

**Jesus said to his disciples:**

**“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life,  
what you will eat or drink,  
or about your body, what you will wear.**

**Is not life more than food and the body more than  
clothing?**

**Look at the birds in the sky;  
they do not sow or reap,  
they gather nothing into barns,  
yet your heavenly Father feeds them.**

**Are not you more important than they?**

**Can any of you by worrying add a single moment  
to your life-span?**

**Why are you anxious about clothes?**

**Learn from the way the wild flowers grow.**

**They do not work or spin.**

**But I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor  
was clothed like one of them.**

**If God so clothes the grass of the field,  
which grows today and is thrown into the oven  
tomorrow,  
will he not much more provide for you, O you  
of little faith?**

**So do not worry and say, ‘What are we to eat?’**

**or ‘What are we to drink?’ or ‘What are we to wear?’**

**All these things the pagans seek.**

**Your heavenly Father knows that you need them all.**

**But seek first the Kingdom of God and  
his righteousness,  
and all these things will be given you besides.”**

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**(Matthew 7:21,24-29)**

**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 this teaching,**

**for he taught them as one having authority,**

**and not as their scribes.**

**The Gospel of the Lord.**



**(Matthew 13:1-9)**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.**

**On that day, Jesus went out of the house and sat down  
by the sea.**

**Such large crowds gathered around him  
that he got into a boat and sat down,  
and the whole crowd stood along the shore.**

**And he spoke to them at length in parables, saying:  
“A sower went out to sow.**

**And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path,  
and birds came and ate it up.**

**Some fell on rocky ground, where it had little soil.  
It sprang up at once because the soil was not deep,  
and when the sun rose it was scorched,  
and it withered for lack of roots.**

**Some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up  
and choked it.**

**But some seed fell on rich soil, and produced fruit,  
a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold.**

**Whoever has ears out to hear.”**

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**(Matthew 19:3-6)**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.**

**Some Pharisees approached Jesus, and tested him,  
saying,**

**“Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife  
for any cause whatever?”**

**He said in reply, “Have you not read that  
from the beginning**

***the Creator made them male and female and said,  
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,  
man must not separate.”**

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**(Matthew 22:34-40)**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.**

**When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced  
the Sadducees,  
they gathered together, and one of them,  
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.**

**(Mark 10:6-9)**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.**

**Jesus told them:**

**“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.**

**(John 2:1-11)**

**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.**

**(John 13:34-35)**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.**

**Jesus said to his disciples:**

**“I give you a new commandment: love one another.**

**As I have loved you,**

**so you also should love one another.**

**This is how all will know that you are my disciples,**

**if you have love for one another.”**

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**(John 15:9-17)**

**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.**

**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 no longer call you slaves,**

**because a slave does not know what his master**

**is doing.**

**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.**

**This I command you: love one another.”**

**The Gospel of the Lord.**



**(John 17:20-26)**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.**

**Lifting up his eyes to heaven, Jesus prayed, saying:**

**“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.**

**Father, they are your gift to me.**

**I wish that where I am they also may be with me,**

**that they may see my glory that you gave me,**

**because you loved me before the foundation**

**of the world.**

**Righteous Father, the world also does not know you,**

**but I know you, and they know that you sent me.**

**I made known to them your name and I will make it**

**known,**

**that the love with which you loved me**

**may be in them and I in them.”**

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**For all the followers of Christ: that they may be witnesses to his love by the concern they show for one another. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For world leaders: that they may work without ceasing to build a more just and human world. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For N. and N., now married in Christ: that this Christian marriage, which has begun in joy, may endure in peace. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**That in the midst of the difficulties and challenges of life they may remain true and loyal friends to one another. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For all here present: that they may be inspired by the love of N. and N., and so find strength to persevere in their efforts to love others unselfishly. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For the lonely and the unloved: that they may find comfort and support. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For all the followers of Christ: that their love for one another may be sincere and practical. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For world leaders: that through good will and cooperation they may put an end to war and hunger.**

**We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For N. and N., who have committed themselves to each other in love: that the Lord may keep them true and faithful to one another. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**That God may bless their love and make it fruitful so that it may enrich their lives and the lives of others.**

**We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For all here present: that we may not be content merely to love our friends, but reach out also to those who make life difficult for us. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For those who do not know how to love because they never received love. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For the church: that it may never forget the primacy of love, and never tire in urging its members to love one another. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For world leaders: that they may work untiringly to build a world free from poverty and oppression, so that all peoples may be able to live in freedom and dignity. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For N. and N.: that the Lord may strengthen their love for one another, and purify it from all traces of self-seeking. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**That they may be able to give to one another with constancy and generosity, and to receive from one another with humility and graciousness. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For all of us who are celebrating with them today: that this day may bring us blessings, and encourage us to be constant and faithful in love. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For those who have died: that the Lord's eternal love and mercy may shine brightly on them. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For the church: that through its ministry the light of the Gospel may shine for all the world to see. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For the world in which we live, a world clouded by war and want, that the light of Christ may dispel its darkness. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For N. and N.: that they may always walk in the light of true love. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**That the darkness of human weakness and sinfulness may not cause them to stumble or lose their way. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For those who have never known the warmth and brightness of love, and who have had to live out their lives in the shadows of apathy and neglect. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For all here present: that this celebration may encourage us to persevere in the way of love. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**That God's light may shine gently on our departed loved ones. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For the pope, bishops, and leaders of the church: that they may build it into a sacrament of unity, love and peace. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For all those who hold public office: that God may give them a strong and unselfish love so that they may work for the progress of all peoples. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For N. and N., whose marriage we are celebrating: that they may know the presence of Christ and his mother in their married life, so that they may be able to change the water of selfishness into wine of pure love. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For all married couples, especially those here present: that Christ may help them to persevere when they experience their own and their partner's human frailty. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For those who have never known the wine of love and joy in their lives: that they too may experience the blessings of love. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For all Christians: that they may be steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and untiring in love. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For all our political and civil leaders: that they may be faithful to their promises and commitments. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For N. and N.: that the Lord may help them to be true to the solemn promises they exchange on this joyful day. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**That their youthful love may never wilt; rather that it may grow stronger as each year goes by. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For all married couples: that they may remain faithful to one another in spite of their own weakness and the difficulties of life. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For those who have been the victims of broken promises: that they may find healing and peace. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For all those who believe in Christ: that they may hear his commandment of love, and obey it. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For those who hold public office: that they may judge wisely and act fairly. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For N. and N.: that their common path may be lit up by the lamp of a true and faithful love for one another. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Now that their paths have joined, may no selfishness, pride or weakness separate them. We pray.**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For all married couples: that they may keep in mind the love which brought them together in the beginning, and so continue to offer one another companionship, support and faithful love. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For all those who travel down the road of life alone: that they may find companionship. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**



**For the church: that its leaders may build it into a true community, where people can find warmth and closeness. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For those who hold public office: that their deeds may match their words and promises. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For N. and N.: that they may build a relationship in which they will find that intimacy and tenderness we all need and secretly long for. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**That they may not be afraid of trials and difficulties and realize that there is more depth in a relationship which has weathered storms. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For all married couples: that partners may strive to be true and loyal friends to one another. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For all those who are lonely and who long for love and friendship. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For all the followers of Christ: that they may not love merely in word or speech but in deed and truth. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For all our political and civil leaders: that their deeds may match their words and promises. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For N. and N.: that their love for each other may be so true and solid that the house of their marriage will stand firm for the whole of their lives. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**That they may not be afraid of the inevitable storms which will assail this fragile house, but be confident that they can withstand these with faith in Christ and in each other. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For all here present: that we may derive joy and hope for our lives from this celebration. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For those who cannot see beyond the values of this world and who pin their hopes on things that are flimsy and unreliable. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For the Christian community: that it may be a sign of unity and an instrument of peace in a divided world.**

**We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For world leaders: that they may take the path of reconciliation and peace rather than that of condemnation and war. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For N. and N.: that the bond which joins their lives today may never be broken. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**That this bond may bind them together in a union, not only of body, but also of mind and heart. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For people whose marriages are under stress: that they may have the courage to seek help in their difficulties.**

**We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For marriages that have broken down: that Christ may heal the wounds that result. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For single and widowed people: that they may find love and support in the Christian community. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**That the teachings of Christ be a guide and light for the marriage of N. and N. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**That the friends and neighbors of N. and N. always give them the support they need for a happy marriage. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**That the love of N. and N. may overflow and become a blessing for all whom they meet. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**That all married couples in the world come to know the steadfast love of God. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**That the friends and family members who celebrate here today build up the body of Christ in faith. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For all God's people, loved by God as a bride is loved by her husband. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For N. and N., joined now in the sacred mystery of marriage in which the two become one body. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For the daily growth of the love this husband and wife have for each other, sustained by the love of God. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For the lives this couple will touch and for the people who find welcome in their home. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For the family members and friends gathered here today and for the growth of love among us all. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For the deceased members of the families of N. and N. that they may dwell in the light and love of the risen Lord forever. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For N. and N., now wedded to each other as Christ is wedded to the Church. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For this newly married couple and for all the people whose lives they will touch. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For the renewed commitment of every married couple. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For single men and women and for their families, friends and colleagues. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For all of us gathered here to celebrate the wedding of N. and N., as we place our trust in God's future for us. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For the church on this shining day, wedded forever to God's wondrous love. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For the people of the world, the children of Adam and Eve, the children of God. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For the bride and groom, N. and N., whose love and fidelity open a doorway into the mystery of God's love. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For all of us who have come together in gladness to give witness to the marriage of N. and N. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For those who cannot be here but who join us in spirit and heartfelt affection. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For the Christian community: that its members may truly love and support one another as Christ wished and prayed. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For the heads of government: that through good will and cooperation they may free the world of poverty and oppression, so that all of God's children may live in freedom and dignity. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For N. and N.: that their relationship may provide them with love and mutual support, without in any way hindering their individual growth and development. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For N. and N.: that they may always enjoy the support of good friends, and be open to the help God, and God alone, can give. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For those who are sick, or lonely or discouraged: that they may draw strength from faith in God and the love of their friends. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**



**For the church: that it may always be a place in which sinners and saints can feel at home. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For the world in which we live: that in spite of all the obstacles and difficulties, the human family may grow in understanding and cooperation. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For N. and N.: that the human frailties they find in one another may never blind them to the good that is there, too; that they may love and accept one another as they are while remaining committed to each other's personal and spiritual growth. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**That they may rejoice with one another in moments of strength, and be compassionate toward one another in moments of weakness. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For all those who have been hurt and wounded by the attitude of others, that they may find acceptance and healing. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**That each of us, while acknowledging our weakness and sinfulness, may realize that the greatest thing about us is our capacity for goodness and love. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For our holy Father on earth, the Pope, all bishops and clergy everywhere: that they will help us reach a deeper faith in God and live in love with others. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For all leaders in our world: that they strive to achieve peace and advocate for the oppressed. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For married couples: that they continue to appreciate and treasure the gifts that they bring through love to their relationship. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For N. and N., now beginning their life together: that they may endure the changes that life demands, live in the joy of their love, cherish relationships with family and friends, and follow the path where God leads. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For all those who are suffering in body, mind and spirit: that they feel God's healing presence and the support of loved ones. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For our relatives and friends and for those who have gone before us, especially N. and N.: that they may experience the joy of God's love and total fulfillment in eternal life. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For the Pope, bishops, priests and deacons of the church, that they continue to lead believers to a deeper faith in God and a stronger love of others. We pray...  
Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For N. and N., that whether they are experiencing times of happiness or heartache their love, commitment and dedication toward each other may remain resolute and be their foundation to help others. We pray...  
Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For the married couples among us who have been a source of inspiration and encouragement in N. and N.'s own journey toward marriage, that they continue in the way of self-giving, forgiving and thanksgiving. We pray...  
Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For all those gathered here today, that they may continue to support N. and N. with their friendship and love throughout their marriage. We pray...  
Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For all those who are sick in mind, body or spirit, that they may be strengthened by God and aided by their brothers and sisters. We pray...  
Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For the love ones of N. and N. who have gone before them, especially N. and N., that they may find peace and fulfillment of their unfulfilled desires. We pray...  
Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For N. and N.: that their love for each other may be patterned on Christ's love for his bride, the church. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**That N. and N. will share in God's creative work and enjoy the gift of children. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For the parents of N. and N.: that they will continue to support them on the journey which begins at this altar. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For those preparing for their marriage day: that they may understand the dignity and responsibilities of the marriage covenant and family life. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For married people everywhere: that they will live in love and faithfulness, for better, for worse, in joy, in sorrow, all the days of their lives. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**That the church will bring salvation to the world by expressing Christ's love for all people. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**That all Christians everywhere may radiate the joy of living in Christ. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For N. and N.: that their married love may reflect God's saving love for the human family. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**That they may be united in love and fidelity as Christ is united with his church. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**That, through the Holy Spirit, they may grow into a community of love and show that Christ's church is present in their home. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**That, through loving one another in Christ, they may come to love Christ in their neighbor. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**That the church may reveal to the world God's love for the human family. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**That the grace of marriage may be renewed in all Christian families and that family life in our country and throughout the world may be renewed by the power of God's sustaining and everlasting love. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For N. and N.: that, through the gift of the Holy Spirit, their lives may be lived in love. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**That God will help them to make a home together and grace it with hospitality, friendship and prayer. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**That God will make their love an expression of his creative love, and bless them with children. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**That they may minister the grace of marriage to each other in their joys and sorrows, in their hopes and disappointments. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**That the grace of marriage may be renewed in all Christian families and redeem human love from selfishness and indifference. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**That all Christians will witness to the gospel of love and offer hospitality to Christ when he comes to them in the form of a stranger. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For N. and N.: that they may always love one another as Christ loves his church, unselfishly and unconditionally. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**That, in their marriage, they will listen to Christ's Gospel and pray together. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**That, through the joys and sacrifices of their married life, they will give witness to their love for Christ. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**That the Christian hope for peace on earth may be fulfilled in their family. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**That all Christians may be faithful to the command of God's covenant and love one another as Christ has loved them. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**That God will grant peace to the world and help the members of the human family to live for each other in the example of Jesus, who gave his life for others. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For N. and N.: that God will help them to fulfill their baptismal calling and Christian vocation in marriage. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**That, through their love for each other, they will give witness to the Lord's eternal covenant of love with the human family. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**That they may be faithful as God is faithful and be led to holiness through success and failure. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**That, as their faith increases, they may see the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection in their life. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**



**That God will bless the parents of N. and N., their friends and all who are here with an increase of faith, hope and love. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**That the church will bring the message of salvation to the world by expressing Christ's love for all people. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For N. and N.: that their love may be patient and gentle, ready to trust, and to endure whatever comes. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**That they may pray together in joy and in sorrow, and always give thanks for the gift of each other. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**That God will bless their daily work and perfect through them his work of creation. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**That the peace of Christ may dwell in their home and give the hope of peace to the world which longs for it. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**That all married people present here may be inspired to renew and deepen their love through this celebration of the sacrament of marriage and be led to the human and spiritual resources they need. We pray...**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**PRAYER SERVICE FOR WEDDING RECEPTIONS  
CELEBRATION OF THE MARRIAGE CANDLE**

**LEADER OF PRAYER:**

**N. and N., at your baptism, a candle of light was entrusted to your parents and godparents to be kept burning brightly. Through that sacrament you were enlightened by Christ. Your parents and godparents have helped you to walk as children of the light, keeping the flame of faith alive in your hearts. Through their word and example, the light of Christ has led you and brought both of you to this day.**

**PARENT 1:**

**O blessed are you who fear the Lord and walk  
in God's ways!  
By the labor of your hands you shall eat.  
You will be happy and prosper;  
your spouse like a fruitful vine in the heart  
of your house;  
your children like shoots of the olive,  
around your table.**

*(Parent lights one of the individual candles.)*

**PARENT 2:**

**Indeed, thus shall be blessed those who fear the Lord.  
May the Lord bless you from Zion all the days  
of your life!  
May you see your children's children in a happy  
Jerusalem!**

*(Parent lights the other individual candle.)*

**LEADER OF PRAYER:**

**Today the Lord has enriched and strengthened you in the sacrament of marriage. Christ abundantly blesses your love. In the words of your vows, you declared your consent before God and the church. In the rings you exchanged, you gave a sign of your love and fidelity. In the light of this candle, you proclaim the length and height and depth of your love and your oneness in Christ. May you continue to prosper in the grace of the sacrament, and may God who has begun this good work in you bring it to completion.**

*(Couple takes a light from their individual candles and together light their marriage candle.)*

**PRAYER OF BLESSING**

**LEADER OF PRAYER:**

**Lord God and Creator, we bless and praise your name. In the beginning you made man and woman, so that they might enter a communion of life and love. We ask you to bless the union of N. and N., so that they may reflect the union of Christ with his church:**

**look with kindness on them today.**

**Amid the joys and struggles of their life, preserve the union between them.**

**Strengthen their marriage covenant,**

**increase your love in them,**

**and make firm the bond of peace between them,**

**so that they may always rejoice in the gift of your blessing.**

**We ask this through Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**