

**FIRST READING**

(1:26-28, 31a)

**A Reading from the book of Genesis**

The God said:

“Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.  
Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea,  
the birds of the air, and the cattle,  
and over all the wild animals  
and all the creatures that crawl on the ground.”

God created man in his image;  
in the image of God he created him;  
male and female he created them.

God blessed them, saying:

“Be fertile and multiply;  
fill the earth and subdue it.

Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air,  
and all the living things that move on the earth.”

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

**The word of the Lord.**

**FIRST READING  
(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 could call them;  
whatever the man called each of them would be its name.

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

So the LORD God cast a deep sleep on the man,  
and while he was asleep,  
he took out one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh.

The Lord God then built up into a woman the rib  
that he had taken from the man.

When he brought her to the man, the man said:

"This one, at last, is bone of my bones  
and flesh of my flesh;  
This one shall be called 'woman',  
for out of 'her man' this one has been taken."

That is why a man leaves his father and mother  
and clings to his wife,  
and the two of them become one body.

**The word of the Lord.**

## FIRST READING

(31:10-13, 19-20, 30.31)

### **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 skillful hands.  
She puts her hands to the distaff,  
and her fingers to ply the spindle.  
She reaches out her hands to the poor,  
and extends her arms to the needy.  
Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting;  
the woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.  
Give her a reward for her labors,  
and let her works praise her at the city gates.

**The Word of the Lord.**

## FIRST READING

(8:4b-8)

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

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

“Sister, get up. Let us pray and beg our Lord to have mercy on us and to grant us deliverance.”

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

They began with these words:

“Blessed are you, O God of our fathers;  
praised by 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 that the man to be alone;  
let us make him a partner like himself.’

Now, Lord, you know that I do not 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.**

## FIRST READING

(26:1-4, 13-16)

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

Blessed the husband of a good wife,  
twice - lengthened are his days;  
A worthy wife brings joy to her husband,  
peaceful and full is his life.

A good wife is a generous gift  
bestowed upon him who fears the LORD;  
Be he rich or poor, his heart is content,  
and a smile is ever on his face.

A gracious wife delights her husband,  
her thoughtfulness puts flesh on his bones;  
A gift from the LORD is her governed speech,  
and her firm virtue is of surpassing worth.

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

A holy and decent woman adds grace upon grace;  
Indeed, no price is worthy of her temperate soul.  
Like the sun rising in the LORD's heavens,  
the beauty of a virtuous wife is the radiance  
of her home.

**The Word of the Lord.**

## FIRST READING

Sg (2:8-16, 8:6-7)

### **A reading from the Song of Songs**

I hear my Beloved. See how he come 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. He said to me:

Set me like a seal on your heart, like a seal on your arm. For love is strong as Death, jealousy relentless as Sheol. The flash of it is a flash of fire, a flame of the Lord himself. Love no flood can quench, no torrents drown.

**The word of the Lord.**