

# ORDER OF CELEBRATING MATRIMONY

## BIBLICAL READINGS

The passages that follow may be used in the Mass For the Celebration of Marriage and in the celebration of Marriages without Mass. At least one reading that explicitly speaks of Marriage must always be chosen. These readings are designated by an 'M'. + indicates a new text not found in current Lectionary and the figure in brackets [179] refers to the numbering on *Order of Celebrating Matrimony*.

### Readings from the Old Testament

M	O-1	Genesis 1:26-28, 31a: <i>Male and female he created them.</i>	[179]
M	O-2	Genesis 2:18-24: <i>They become one body.</i>	[180]
M	O-3	Genesis 24:48-51, 58-67 <i>Isaac loved Rebekah, and so he was consoled for the loss of his mother.</i>	[181]
M	O-4	Tobit 7:6-14 <i>The Lord of heaven favours you, my child, and grants you his grace and peace.</i>	[182]
M	O-5	Tobit 8:4b-8 <i>Bring us to old age together.</i>	[183]
+M	O-6	Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31 <i>The woman who fears the Lord is the one to praise.</i>	[184]
	O-7	Song of Songs 2:8-10, 14, 16a; 8:6-7a <i>Love is as strong as Death.</i>	[185]
M	O-8	Ecclesiasticus (Sirach) 26:1-4, 16-21 <i>Like the sin rising is the beauty of a good wife in a well-kept house.</i>	[186]
	O-9	Jeremiah 31:31-32a, 33-34a <i>I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel and the House of Judah.</i>	[187]

## Readings from the New Testament

	N-1	Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39 <i>Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ.</i>	[188]
	N-2	Romans 12:1-2, 9-18 (long form) or 1-2, 9-13 (short form) <i>Offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God.</i>	[189]
+	N-3	Romans 15:1b-3a, 5-7, 13 <i>Treat each other as Christ.</i>	[190]
	N-4	1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20 <i>Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit.</i>	[191]
	N-5	1 Corinthians 12:31-13:8a <i>If I am without love, it will do me no good whatever.</i>	[192]
+	N-6	Ephesians 4:1-6 <i>One Body and one Spirit.</i>	[193]
M	N-7	Ephesians 5:2a, 21-33 (long form) or 5:2a, 25-32 (short form) <i>This mystery has many implications and I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church.</i>	[194]
+	N-8	Philippians 4:4-9 <i>The God of peace will be with you.</i>	[195]
	N-9	Colossians 3:12-17 <i>Over all these to keep them together and complete them, put on love.</i>	[196]
+	N-10	Hebrews 13:1-4a, 5-6b <i>Marriage is to be honoured by all.</i>	[197]
M	N-11	1 Peter 3:1-9 <i>You should all agree among yourselves and be sympathetic; love the brothers.</i>	[198]
	N-12	1 John 3:18-24 <i>Our love is to be something real and active.</i>	[199]
	N-13	1 John 4:7-12 <i>God is love</i>	[200]
	N-14	Revelation 19:1, 5-9a <i>Happy are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb.</i>	[201]

## Responsorial Psalms

- P-1 Psalm 32 (33):12 and 18, 20-21, 22. *R.* 5b [202]  
The Lord fills the earth with his love.
- P-2 Psalm 33 (34):2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9. *R.* 2a or 9a [203]  
I will bless the Lord at all times.  
*or:* Taste and see that the Lord is good.
- P-3 Psalm 102 (103):1-2, 8 and 13, 17-18a. *R.* 8a or cf. 17 [204]  
The Lord is compassion and love.  
*or:* The love of the Lord is everlasting upon those who hold him in fear.
- P-4 Psalm 111 (112):1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8, 9. *R.* cf. 1 [205]  
Happy the man who takes delight in the Lord's commands.  
*or:* Alleluia!
- M P-5 Psalm 127 (128):1-2, 3, 4-5ac and 6a. *R.* cf. 1 or 4 [206]  
O blessed are those who fear the Lord!  
*or:* Indeed thus shall be blessed the man who fears the Lord.
- P-6 Psalm 144 (145):8-9, 10 and 15, 17-18. *R.* 9a [207]  
How good is the Lord to all.
- P-7 Psalm 148:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-13ab, 13c-14a. *R.* 13a [208]  
Praise the name of the Lord.  
*or:* Alleluia!

## Alleluia Verses and Verses before the Gospel

- + V-1 cf. Psalm 133 (134): 3 [209]  
*May the Lord bless you from Sion,  
he who made both heaven and earth.*
- V-2 1 John 4:7b [209]  
*Everyone who loves  
is begotten by God,  
and knows God.*
- V-3 1 John 4:8b and 11 [210]  
*God is love;  
let us love one another  
as God has loved us.*
- V-4 1 John 4:12 [211]  
*As long as we love one another  
God will live in us,  
and his love will be complete in us.*
- V-5 1 John 4:16 [212]  
*Anyone who lives in love  
lives in God,  
and God lives in him.*

## Gospel Readings

	G-1	Matthew 5:1-12a <i>Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.</i>	[213]
	G-2	Matthew 5:13-16 <i>You are the light of the world.</i>	[214]
	G-3	Matthew 7:21, 24-29 (long form) or 7:21, 24-25 (short form): <i>He built his house on rock.</i>	[215]
M	G-4	Matthew 19:3-6 <i>What God has united, man must not divide.</i>	[216]
	G-5	Matthew 22:35-40 <i>This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it.</i>	[217]
M	G-6	Mark 10:6-9: <i>They are no longer two, but one body.</i>	[218]
M	G-7	John 2:1-11 <i>This was the first of the signs given by Jesus — at Cana in Galilee.</i>	[219]
	G-8	John 15:9-12 <i>Remain in my love.</i>	[220]
	G-9	John 15:12-16 <i>What I command you is to love one another.</i>	[221]
	G-10	John 17:20-26 (long form) or 17:20-23 (short form) <i>May they be completely one.</i>	[222]

## Blessing of an Engaged Couple

	E-1	John 15:9-12	[260]
	E-2	1 Corinthians 13:4-13	[261]
	E-3	Hosea 2:21-26	[262]
	E-4	Philippians 2:1-5	[262]
		Psalm 144 (145): 8-9, 10, 15. R̄. 9a <i>See P-6, page 37</i>	[263]

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# READINGS FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

## O-1<sup>M</sup>

### Reading

Genesis 1: 26–28. 31a

*Male and female he created them.*

A reading from the book of Genesis.

<sup>26</sup> God said,  
‘Let us make man 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.’

<sup>27</sup> God created man in the image of himself,  
in the image of God he created him,  
male and female he created them.

<sup>28</sup> 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 living animals on the earth.’

<sup>31</sup> God saw all he had made, and indeed it was very good.

The word of the Lord.

Reading

Genesis 2: 18–24  
*They become one body.*

A reading from the book of Genesis.

18 The Lord God said,  
‘It is not good that the man should be alone.  
I will make him a helpmate.’

19 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.

20 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.

21 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.  
22 The Lord God built the rib he had taken from the man into a woman,  
and brought her to the man.

23 The man exclaimed:  
‘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.’

24 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.

## Reading

Genesis 24: 48–51. 58–67

*Isaac loved Rebekah, and so he was consoled for the loss of his mother.*

A reading from the book of Genesis.

Abraham's servant said to Laban,

48 'I blessed the Lord, God of my master Abraham,  
who had so graciously led me to choose  
the daughter of my master's brother for his son.

49 Now tell me whether you are prepared  
to show kindness and goodness to my master;  
if not, say so, and I shall know what to do.'

50 Laban and Bethuel replied,

'This is from the Lord; it is not in our power to say yes or no to you.

51 Rebekah is there before you. Take her and go;  
and let her become the wife of your master's son,  
as the Lord has decreed.'

58 They called Rebekah and asked her,

'Do you want to leave with this man?'

'I do,' she replied.

59 Accordingly they let their sister Rebekah go, with her nurse,  
and Abraham's servant and his men.

60 They blessed Rebekah in these words:

'Sister of ours, increase to thousands and tens of thousands!  
May your descendants gain possession  
of the gates of their enemies!'

61 Rebekah and her servants stood up, mounted the camels,  
and followed the man.

The servant took Rebekah and departed.

62 Isaac, who lived in the Negeb,  
had meanwhile come into the wilderness of the well of Lahai Roi.  
63 Now Isaac went walking in the fields as evening fell,  
and looking up saw camels approaching.

64 And Rebekah looked up and saw Isaac.  
She jumped down from her camel,  
65 and asked the servant,  
'Who is that man walking through the fields to meet us?'  
The servant replied, 'That is my master';  
then she took her veil and hid her face.

66 The servant told Isaac the whole story,  
67 and Isaac led Rebekah into his tent and made her his wife;  
and he loved her.  
And so Isaac was consoled for the loss of his mother.

The word of the Lord.

## Reading

Tobit 7:6–14

*The Lord of heaven favour you, my child, and grant you his grace and peace.*

A reading from the book of Tobit.

<sup>6</sup> Raguel kissed Tobias and wept.

<sup>7</sup> Then finding words, he said, ‘Blessings on you, child!  
You are the son of a noble father.

How sad it is that someone so virtuous  
and full of good deeds should have gone blind!’

He fell on the neck of his kinsman Tobias and wept.

<sup>8</sup> And his wife Edna wept for him, and so did his daughter Sarah.

<sup>9</sup> Raguel killed a sheep from the flock,  
and they gave Tobias and Raphael a warm-hearted welcome.

They washed and bathed and sat down to table.

Then Tobias said to Raphael,

‘Brother Azarias, will you ask Raguel to give me my sister Sarah?’

<sup>10</sup> Raguel overheard the words, and said to the young man,

‘Eat and drink, and make the most of your evening;  
no one else has the right to take my daughter Sarah  
— no one but you, my brother.

In any case I, for my own part, am not at liberty to give her to anyone  
else, since you are her next of kin.

However, my boy, I must be frank with you:

<sup>11</sup> I have tried to find a husband for her seven times among our kinsmen,  
and all of them have died the first evening, on going to her room.

But for the present, my boy, eat and drink;  
the Lord will grant you his grace and peace.’

Tobias spoke out,

‘I will not hear of eating and drinking  
till you have come to a decision about me.’

Raguel answered,  
‘Very well. Since, as prescribed by the Book of Moses,  
she is given to you, heaven itself decrees she shall be yours.  
I shall therefore entrust your sister to you.  
From now you are her brother and she is your sister.  
She is given to you from today for ever.  
The Lord of heaven favour you tonight, my child,  
and grant you his grace and peace.’

<sup>12</sup> Raguel called for his daughter Sarah,  
took her by the hand and gave her to Tobias with these words,  
‘I entrust her to you;  
the law and the ruling recorded in the Book of Moses  
assign her to you as your wife.  
Take her; take her home to your father’s house with a good conscience.  
The God of heaven grant you a good journey in peace.’

<sup>13</sup> Then he turned to her mother  
and asked her to fetch him writing paper.  
He drew up the marriage contract,  
how he gave his daughter as bride to Tobias  
according to the ordinance in the Law of Moses.

<sup>14</sup> After this they began to eat and drink.

The word of the Lord.

## Reading

Tobit 8:4b-8

*Bring us to old age together.*

A reading from the book of Tobit.

- 4 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,
- 5 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.
- 6 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 good that the man should be alone;  
 let us make him a helpmate like himself.”
- 8 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.’
- 8 And together they said, ‘Amen, Amen.’

The word of the Lord.

Reading

Proverbs 31: 10–13. 19–20. 30–31

*The woman who fears the Lord is the one to praise.*

A reading from the book of Proverbs.

- 10 A perfect wife — who can find her?  
She is far beyond the price of pearls.
- 11 Her husband's heart has confidence in her,  
from her he will derive no little profit.
- 12 Advantage and not hurt she brings him  
all the days of her life.
- 13 She is always busy with wool and with flax,  
she does her work with eager hands.
- 19 She sets her hands to the distaff,  
her fingers grasp the spindle.
- 20 She holds out her hand to the poor,  
she opens her arms to the needy.
- 30 Charm is deceitful, and beauty empty;  
the woman who is wise is the one to praise.
- 31 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.

## Reading

Song of Songs 2: 8–10. 14. 16. 8: 6–7

*Love is strong as Death.*

A reading from the Song of Songs.

- 8 I hear my Beloved.  
See how he comes  
leaping on the mountains,  
bounding over the hills.
- 9 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.
- 10 My Beloved lifts up his voice,  
he says to me,  
'Come then, my love,  
my lovely one, come.
- 14 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.'
- 16 My beloved is mine and I am his.
- 8:6 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.
- 7 Love no flood can quench,  
no torrents drown.

The word of the Lord.

Reading

Ecclesiasticus 26: 1–4. 13–16

*Like the sun rising is the beauty of a good wife in a well-kept house.*

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus.

- <sup>1</sup> Happy the husband of a really good wife;  
the number of his days will be doubled.
- <sup>2</sup> A perfect wife is the joy of her husband,  
he will live out the years of his life in peace.
- <sup>3</sup> A good wife is the best of portions,  
reserved for those who fear the Lord;
- <sup>4</sup> rich or poor, they will be glad of heart;  
cheerful of face, whatever the season.
- <sup>13</sup> The grace of a wife will charm her husband,  
her accomplishments will make him stronger.
- <sup>14</sup> A silent wife is a gift from the Lord,  
no price can be put on a well-trained character.
- <sup>15</sup> A modest wife is a boon twice over,  
a chaste character cannot be weighed on scales.
- <sup>16</sup> 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.

## Reading

Jeremiah 31:31–34

*I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the House of Judah.*

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.

- 31 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,
- 32 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.
- 33 No, this is the covenant I will 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.
- 34 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.

# READINGS FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

## N-1

### Reading

Romans 8:31b–35.37–39

*Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ.*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.

<sup>31</sup> With God on our side who can be against us?  
<sup>32</sup> 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.  
<sup>33</sup> Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen?  
When God acquits, <sup>34</sup> 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.  
<sup>35</sup> 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.  
<sup>37</sup> These are the trials through which we triumph,  
by the power of him who loved us.  
<sup>38</sup> For I am certain of this:  
neither death nor life, no angel, no prince,  
nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power,  
<sup>39</sup> 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.

## Reading

Romans 12: 1–2. 9–18

*Offer your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God.*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.

- 1 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.
- 2 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.
- 9 Do not let your love be a pretence, but sincerely prefer good to evil.
- 10 Love each other as much as brothers should,  
and have a profound respect for each other.
- 11 Work for the Lord with untiring effort  
and with great earnestness of spirit.
- 12 If you have hope, this will make you cheerful.  
Do not give up if trials come; and keep on praying.
- 13 If any of the saints are in need you must share with them;  
and you should make hospitality your special care.
- 14 Bless those who persecute you: never curse them, bless them.
- 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice and be sad with those in sorrow.
- 16 Treat everyone with equal kindness;  
never be condescending but make real friends with the poor.  
Do not allow yourself to become self-satisfied.
- 17 Never repay evil with evil  
but let everyone see that you are interested only in the highest ideals.
- 18 Do all you can to live at peace with everyone.
- The word of the Lord.

## N-2s

### Short form

## Reading

Romans 12: 1–2, 9–13

*Offer your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God.*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.

- <sup>1</sup> 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.
- <sup>2</sup> 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.
- <sup>9</sup> Do not let your love be a pretence, but sincerely prefer good to evil.
- <sup>10</sup> Love each other as much as brothers should,  
and have profound respect for each other.
- <sup>11</sup> Work for the Lord with untiring effort  
and with great earnestness of spirit.
- <sup>12</sup> If you have hope, this will make you cheerful.  
Do not give up if trials come; and keep on praying.
- <sup>13</sup> 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.

Reading

Romans 15: 1b–3a, 5–7, 13

*Treat each other as Christ.*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.

<sup>1</sup> We should not think of ourselves.

<sup>2</sup> Each of us should think of his neighbours  
and help them to become stronger Christians.

<sup>3</sup> Christ did not think of himself.

<sup>5</sup> And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up,  
help you all to be tolerant with each other,  
following the example of Christ Jesus,

<sup>6</sup> so that united in mind and voice  
you may give glory to to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup> It can only be to God's glory, then,  
that you treat each other in the same friendly way  
as Christ treated you.

<sup>13</sup> 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.

Reading

1 Corinthians 6: 13–15. 17–20

*Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit.*

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

- <sup>13</sup> The body is not meant for fornication;  
it is for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.
- <sup>14</sup> God, who raised the Lord from the dead,  
will by his power raise us up too.
- <sup>15</sup> You know, surely, that your bodies are members  
making up the body of Christ.
- <sup>17</sup> But anyone who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with him.
- <sup>18</sup> Keep away from fornication.  
All the other sins are committed outside the body;  
but to fornicate is to sin against your own body.
- <sup>19</sup> Your body, you know, is the temple of the Holy Spirit,  
who is in you since you received him from God.
- <sup>20</sup> You are not your own property; you have been bought and paid for.  
That is why you should use your body for the glory of God.
- The word of the Lord.

## Reading

1 Corinthians 12:31–13:8

*If I am without love, it will do me no good whatever.*

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

31 Be ambitious for the higher gifts.

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

13:1 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.

2 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.

3 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.

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

6 Love takes no pleasure in other people's sins but delights in the truth;  
7 it is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope, and to endure whatever comes.

8 Love does not come to an end.

The word of the Lord.

Reading

Ephesians 4: 1-6  
*One Body and one Spirit.*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

<sup>1</sup> I, the prisoner in the Lord,  
implore you therefore to live a life worthy of your vocation.

<sup>2</sup> Bear with one another charitably,  
in complete selflessness, gentleness and patience.

<sup>3</sup> Do all you can to preserve the unity of the Spirit  
by the peace that binds you together.

<sup>4</sup> There is one Body, one Spirit,  
just as you were all called into one and the same hope  
when you were called.

<sup>5</sup> There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism,  
<sup>6</sup> and one God who is Father of all,  
over all, through all and within all.

The word of the Lord.

## Reading

Ephesians 5: 2a. 21–33

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

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians.

2 Follow Christ by loving as he loved you,  
giving himself up in our place.

21 Give way to one another in obedience to Christ.

22 Wives should regard their husbands as they regard the Lord,  
23 since as Christ is head of the Church and saves the whole body,  
so is a husband the head of his wife;

24 and as the Church submits to Christ,  
so should wives to their husbands, in everything.

25 Husbands should love their wives just as Christ loved the Church  
and sacrificed himself for her

26 to make her holy.

He made her clean by washing her in water with a form of words,  
27 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.

28 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.

29 A man never hates his own body, but he feeds it and looks after it;  
and that is the way Christ treats the Church,

30 because it is his body — and we are its living parts.

31 For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother  
and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one body.

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

33 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.

Reading

Ephesians 5: 2a. 25–32

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

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians.

2 Follow Christ by loving as he loved you,  
giving himself up in our place.

25 Husbands should love their wives just as Christ loved the Church  
and sacrificed himself for her <sup>26</sup> to make her holy.

He made her clean by washing her in water with a form of words,  
27 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.

28 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.

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and that is the way Christ treats the Church,

30 because it is his body — and we are its living parts.

31 For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother  
and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one body.

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

33 The word of the Lord.

## Reading

Philippians 4: 4–9

*The God of peace will be with you.*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians.

- 4 I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord;  
I repeat, what I want is your happiness.
- 5 Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near.
- 6 There is no need to worry;  
but if there is anything you need, pray for it,  
asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving,  
7 and that peace of God,  
which is so much greater than we can understand,  
will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.
- 8 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.
- 9 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.

Reading

Colossians 3:12-17

*Over all these, to keep them together and complete them, put on love.*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians.

- <sup>12</sup> 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.
- <sup>13</sup> Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins.  
The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same.
- <sup>14</sup> Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them,  
put on love.
- <sup>15</sup> And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts,  
because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body.  
Always be thankful.
- <sup>16</sup> Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you.  
Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom.  
With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns  
and inspired songs to God
- <sup>17</sup> 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.

## N-10

### Reading

Hebrews 13: 1–4a. 5–6b

*Marriage is to be honoured by all.*

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

<sup>1</sup> Continue to love each other like brothers,  
<sup>2</sup> and remember always to welcome strangers,  
for by doing this, some people have entertained angels  
without knowing it.

<sup>3</sup> Keep in mind those who are in prison,  
as though you were in prison with them;  
and those who are being badly treated,  
since you too are in the one body.

<sup>4</sup> Marriage is to be honoured by all,  
and marriages are to be kept undefiled.

<sup>5</sup> Put greed out of your lives and be content with whatever you have;  
God himself has said:

I will not fail you or desert you,

<sup>6</sup> and so we can say with confidence:

With the Lord to help me, I fear nothing.

The word of the Lord.

## Reading

1 Peter 3:1–9

*You should all agree among yourselves and be sympathetic; love the brothers.*

A reading from the first letter of St Peter.

- 1 Wives should be obedient to their husbands.  
Then, if there are some husbands who have not yet obeyed the word,  
they may find themselves won over, without a word spoken,  
by the way their wives behave,  
2 when they see how faithful and conscientious they are.  
3 Do not dress up for show:  
doing up your hair, wearing gold bracelets and fine clothes;  
4 all this should be inside, in a person's heart, imperishable:  
the ornament of a sweet and gentle disposition  
— this is what is precious in the sight of God.  
5 That was how the holy women of the past  
dressed themselves attractively  
— they hoped in God and were tender and obedient to their husbands;  
6 like Sarah, who was obedient to Abraham, and called him her lord.  
You are now her children, as long as you live good lives  
and do not give way to fear and worry.  
7 In the same way, husbands must always treat their wives  
with consideration in their life together,  
respecting a woman as one who,  
though she may be the weaker partner,  
is equally an heir to the life of grace.  
This will stop anything from coming in the way of your prayers.  
8 Finally: you should all agree among yourselves and be sympathetic,  
love the brothers, have compassion and be self-effacing.  
9 Never pay back one wrong with another one;  
instead, pay back with a blessing.  
That is what you are called to do,  
so that you inherit a blessing yourself.

The word of the Lord.

## Reading

1 John 3:18–24

*Our love is to be something real and active.*

A reading from the first letter of St John.

18 My children,  
our love is not to be just words or mere talk,  
but something real and active;  
19 only by this can we be certain  
that we are children of the truth  
and be able to quieten our conscience in his presence,  
20 whatever accusations it may raise against us,  
because God is greater than our conscience and he knows everything.  
21 My dear people,  
if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience,  
we need not be afraid in God's presence,  
22 and whatever we ask him,  
we shall receive,  
because we keep his commandments  
and live the kind of life that he wants.  
23 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.  
24 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.

Reading

1 John 4:7-12

*God is love.*

A reading from the first letter of St John.

7 My dear people,  
let us love one another  
since love comes from God  
and everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God.

8 Anyone who fails to love can never have known God,  
because God is love.

9 God's love for us was revealed  
when God sent into the world his only Son  
so that we could have life through him;

10 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.

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

12 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.

Reading

Apocalypse 19: 1.5–9

*Happy are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb.*

A reading from the book of Apocalypse.

<sup>1</sup> I, John, seemed to hear the great sound of a huge crowd in heaven, singing, ‘Alleluia! Victory and glory and power to our God!’

<sup>5</sup> Then a voice came from the throne; it said, ‘Praise our God, you servants of his and all who, great or small, revere him.’

<sup>6</sup> And I seemed to hear 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; <sup>7</sup> let us be glad and joyful and give praise to God, because this is the time for the marriage of the Lamb.

<sup>8</sup> 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.’

<sup>9</sup> The angel said, ‘Write this: happy are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb.’

The word of the Lord.

# RESPONSORIAL PSALMS

## P-1

### Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 32 (33): 12. 18. 20–21. 22. R. cf. 5b

R. The Lord fills the earth with his love.

<sup>12</sup> They are happy, whose God is the Lord,  
the people he has chosen as his own.

<sup>18</sup> The Lord looks on those who revere him,  
on those who hope in his love. R.

<sup>20</sup> Our soul is waiting for the Lord.  
The Lord is our help and our shield.

<sup>21</sup> In him do our hearts find joy.  
We trust in his holy name. R.

<sup>22</sup> May your love be upon us, O Lord,  
as we place all our hope in you. R.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 33(34): 2-3. 4-5. 6-7. 8-9. R. 2a or 9a

R. I will bless the Lord at all times.

or

R. Taste and see that the Lord is good.

2 I will bless the Lord at all times,  
his praise always on my lips;  
3 in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.  
The humble shall hear and be glad. R.

4 Glorify the Lord with me.  
Together let us praise his name.  
5 I sought the Lord and he answered me;  
from all my terrors he set me free. R.

6 Look towards him and be radiant;  
let your faces not be abashed.  
7 This poor man called; the Lord heard him  
and rescued him from all his distress. R.

8 The angel of the Lord is encamped  
around those who revere him, to rescue them.  
9 Taste and see that the Lord is good.  
He is happy who seeks refuge in him. R.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 102 (103): 1-2. 8. 13. 17-18a R: 8a or 17

R: The Lord is compassion and love.

or

R: The love of the Lord is everlasting  
upon those who hold him in fear.

<sup>1</sup> My soul, give thanks to the Lord,  
all my being bless his holy name.

<sup>2</sup> My soul, give thanks to the Lord  
and never forget all his blessings. R:

<sup>8</sup> The Lord is compassion and love,  
slow to anger and rich in mercy.

<sup>13</sup> As a father has compassion on his sons,  
the Lord has pity on those who fear him. R:

<sup>17</sup> The love of the Lord is everlasting  
upon those who hold him in fear;

<sup>18</sup> his justice reaches out to children's children  
when they keep his covenant in truth. R:

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 111 (112): 1-2. 3-4. 5-7a. 7bc-8. 9. R. cf. 1

R. Happy the man who takes delight  
in the Lord's commands.

or

R. Alleluia!

1 Happy the man who fears the Lord,  
who takes delight in all his commands.

2 His sons will be powerful on earth;  
the children of the upright are blessed. R.

3 Riches and wealth are in his house;  
his justice stands firm for ever.

4 He is a light in the darkness for the upright:  
he is generous, merciful and just. R.

5 The good man takes pity and lends,  
he conducts his affairs with honour.

6 The just man will never waver:  
he will be remembered for ever. R.

He has no fear of evil news;  
with a firm heart he trusts in the Lord.

8 With a steadfast heart he will not fear;  
he will see the downfall of his foes. R.

9 Open-handed, he gives to the poor;  
his justice stands firm for ever.  
His head will be raised in glory. R.

## Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 127(128): 1-2. 3. 4-5. R. cf. 1 or 4

R. O blessed are those who fear the Lord!

or

R. Indeed thus shall be blessed  
the man who fears the Lord.

<sup>1</sup> O blessed are those who fear the Lord  
and walk in his ways!

<sup>2</sup> By the labour of your hands you shall eat.  
You will be happy and prosper. R.

<sup>3</sup> Your wife will be like a fruitful vine  
in the heart of your house;  
your children like shoots of the olive,  
around your table. R.

<sup>4</sup> Indeed thus shall be blessed  
the man who fears the Lord.

<sup>5</sup> May the Lord bless you from Zion  
all the days of your life! R.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 144 (145): 8-9. 10. 15. 17-18. R. 9a

R. How good is the Lord to all.

8 The Lord is kind and full of compassion,  
slow to anger, abounding in love.

9 How good is the Lord to all,  
compassionate to all his creatures. R.

10 All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord,  
and your friends shall repeat their blessing.

15 The eyes of all creatures look to you  
and you give them their food in due time. R.

17 The Lord is just in all his ways  
and loving in all his deeds.

18 He is close to all who call him,  
who call on him from their hearts. R.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 148: 1-2. 3-4. 9-10. 11-13. 13c-14a. R. 12

R. Praise the name of the Lord.

or

R. Alleluia!

<sup>1</sup> Praise the Lord from the heavens,  
praise him in the heights.

<sup>2</sup> Praise him, all his angels,  
praise him, all his host. R.

<sup>3</sup> Praise him, sun and moon,  
praise him, shining stars.

<sup>4</sup> Praise him, highest heavens  
and the waters above the heavens. R.

<sup>9</sup> All mountains and hills,  
all fruit trees and cedars,  
<sup>10</sup> beasts, wild and tame,  
reptiles and birds on the wing. R.

<sup>11</sup> All earth's kings and peoples,  
earth's princes and rulers;  
<sup>12</sup> young men and maidens,  
<sup>13</sup> old men together with children. R.

Let them praise the name of the Lord  
for he alone is exalted.

<sup>14</sup> The splendour of his name  
reaches beyond heaven and earth. R.

# ALLELUIA VERSES & VERSES BEFORE THE GOSPEL

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During the season of Lent the *Alleluia* sung before and after the Verse before the Gospel is replaced by an acclamation such as: *Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!*

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## V-1

### Gospel Acclamation

cf. Psalm 133 (134): 3

Alleluia, alleluia!  
May the Lord bless you from Sion,  
he who made both heaven and earth.  
Alleluia!

## V-2

### Gospel Acclamation

1 John 4:7b

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Everyone who loves  
is begotten by God,  
and knows God.  
Alleluia!

## V-3

### Gospel Acclamation

1 John 4:8b.11

Alleluia, alleluia!  
God is love;  
let us love one another  
as God has loved us.  
Alleluia!

## V-4

### Gospel Acclamation

1 John 4:12

Alleluia, alleluia!  
As long as we love one another  
God will live in us,  
and his love will be complete in us.  
Alleluia!

**Gospel Acclamation**

1 John 4:16

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Anyone who lives in love  
lives in God,  
and God lives in him.  
Alleluia!

# GOSPEL READINGS

## G-1

### Gospel

Matthew 5: 1–12a

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

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

- <sup>1</sup> Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill.  
There he sat down and was joined by his disciples.
- <sup>2</sup> Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:
- <sup>3</sup> ‘How happy are the poor in spirit;  
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- <sup>4</sup> Happy the gentle:  
they shall have the earth for their heritage.
- <sup>5</sup> Happy those who mourn:  
they shall be comforted.
- <sup>6</sup> Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right:  
they shall be satisfied.
- <sup>7</sup> Happy the merciful:  
they shall have mercy shown them.
- <sup>8</sup> Happy the pure in heart:  
they shall see God.
- <sup>9</sup> Happy the peacemakers:  
they shall be called sons of God.
- <sup>10</sup> Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right:  
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- <sup>11</sup> ‘Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you  
and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account.
- <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel

Matthew 5:13–16

*You are the light of the world.*

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to his disciples:

<sup>13</sup> ‘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  
to be trampled underfoot by men.

<sup>14</sup> ‘You are the light of the world.

A city built on a hilltop cannot be hidden.

<sup>15</sup> No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub;  
they put it on the lamp-stand

where it shines for everyone in the house.

<sup>16</sup> In the same way your light must shine in the sight of men,  
so that, seeing your good works,  
they may give the praise to your Father in heaven.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel

Matthew 7: 21. 24–29  
*He built his house on rock.*

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to his disciples:

21 ‘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.

24 ‘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.

25 Rain came down, floods rose, gales blew  
and hurled themselves against the house, and it did not fall:  
it was founded on rock.

26 But everyone who listens to these words of mine  
and does not act on them will be like a stupid man  
who built his house on sand.

27 Rain came down, floods rose, gales blew  
and struck that house, and it fell;  
and what a fall it had!’

28 Jesus had now finished what he wanted to say,  
and his teaching made a deep impression on the people  
29 because he taught them with authority,  
and not like their own scribes.

The Gospel of the Lord.

## G-3s

### Short Form

## Gospel

Matthew 7: 21. 24–25

*He built his house on rock.*

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to his disciples:

<sup>21</sup> ‘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.

<sup>24</sup> ‘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.

<sup>25</sup> Rain came down, floods rose, gales blew  
and hurled themselves against that house, and it did not fall:  
it was founded on rock.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel

Matthew 19: 3–6

*What God has united, man must not divide.*

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

3 Some Pharisees approached Jesus, and to test him they said,  
'Is it against the Law for a man to divorce his wife  
on any pretext whatever?'

4 He answered, 'Have you not read that the creator from the beginning  
made them male and female

5 and that he said: This is why a man must leave father and mother,  
and cling to his wife, and the two become one body?

6 They are no longer two, therefore, but one body.  
So then, what God has united, man must not divide.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

## G-5

### Gospel

Matthew 22: 35–40

*This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it.*

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

35 A lawyer, to disconcert Jesus, put a question,  
26 ‘Master, which is the greatest commandment of the Law?’  
37 Jesus said, ‘You must love the Lord your God with all your heart,  
with all your soul, and with all your mind.  
38 This is the greatest and the first commandment.  
39 The second resembles it:  
You must love your neighbour as yourself.  
40 On these two commandments hang the whole Law,  
and the Prophets also.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel

Mark 10: 6–9

*They are no longer two, but one body.*

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

Jesus said,

6 'From the beginning of creation God made them male and female.

7 This is why a man must leave father and mother,

8 and the two become one body.

They are no longer two, therefore, but one body.

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

## Gospel

John 2: 1–11

*This was the first of the signs given by Jesus — at Cana in Galilee.*

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

1 There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee.  
The mother of Jesus was there,  
2 and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited.  
3 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 wine.’

4 Jesus said, ‘Woman why turn to me?  
My hour has not come yet.’  
5 His mother said to the servants,  
‘Do whatever he tells you.’

6 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.  
7 Jesus said to the servants, ‘Fill the jars with water,’  
and they filled them to the brim.  
8 ‘Draw some out now’ he told them, ‘and take it to the steward.’  
9 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  
10 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.’

11 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.

Gospel

John 15:9–12  
*Remain in my love.*

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples:

<sup>9</sup> ‘As the Father has loved me,  
so I have loved you.

Remain in my love.

<sup>10</sup> 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.

<sup>11</sup> I have told you this  
so that my own joy may be in you  
and your joy be complete.

<sup>12</sup> This is my commandment:  
love one another,  
as I have loved you.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

## Gospel

John 15:12-16

*What I command you is to love one another.*

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples:

<sup>12</sup> ‘This is my commandment:

love one another,

as I have loved you.

<sup>13</sup> A man can have no greater love  
than to lay down his life for his friends.

<sup>14</sup> You are my friends,  
if you do what I command you.

<sup>15</sup> 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.

<sup>16</sup> 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.

Gospel

John 17:20–26

*May they be completely one.*

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said:

‘Holy Father,

20 I pray not only for these, but for those also  
who through their words will believe in me.

21 May they all be one.

Father, may they be one in us,

as you are in me and I am in you,

so that the world may believe it was you who sent me.

22 I have given them the glory you gave to me,  
that they may be one as we are one.

23 With me in them and you in me,  
may they be so completely one

that the world will realise that it was you who sent me  
and that I have loved them as much as you loved me.

24 Father, I want those you have given me  
to be with me where I am,

so that they may always see the glory

you have given me

because you loved me

before the foundation of the world.

25 Father, Righteous One,

the world has not known you, but I have known you,

and these have known that you have sent me.

26 I have made your name known to them

and will continue to make it known,

so that the love with which you loved me may be in them,

and so that I may be in them.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

## G-10s

### Short form

## Gospel

John 17:20–23

*May they be completely one.*

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said:

‘Holy Father,

<sup>20</sup> I pray not only for these, but for those also  
who through their words will believe in me.

<sup>21</sup> May they all be one.

Father, may they be one in us,

as you are in me and I am in you,

so that the world may believe it was you who sent me.

<sup>22</sup> I have given them the glory you gave to me,  
that they may be one as we are one.

<sup>23</sup> With me in them and you in me,

may they be so completely one

that the world will realise that it was you who sent me

and that I have loved them as much as you loved me.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

# BLESSING OF AN ENGAGED COUPLE

## E-1

### Gospel

John 15:9–12

Listen, brothers and sisters, to the words of the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples:

<sup>9</sup> ‘As the Father has loved me,  
so I have loved you.

Remain in my love.

<sup>10</sup> 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.

<sup>11</sup> I have told you this  
so that my own joy may be in you  
and your joy be complete.

<sup>12</sup> This is my commandment:  
love one another,  
as I have loved you.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

## Reading

1 Corinthians 13:4–13

Listen, brothers and sisters, to the words of the Apostle Paul to the Corinthians.

4 Love is always patient and kind; it is never jealous;  
5 love is never boastful or conceited; it is never rude or selfish;  
it does not take offence, and is not resentful.  
6 Love takes no pleasure in other people's sins but delights in the truth;  
7 it is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope,  
and to endure whatever comes.

8 Love does not come to an end.  
But if there are gifts of prophecy,  
the time will come when they must fail;  
or the gift of languages, it will not continue for ever;  
and knowledge — for this, too,  
the time will come when it must fail.

9 For our knowledge is imperfect  
and our prophesying is imperfect;  
10 but once perfection comes,  
all imperfect things will disappear.

11 When I was a child, I used to talk like a child,  
and think like a child, and argue like a child,  
but now I am a man, all childish ways are put behind me.

12 Now we are seeing a dim reflection in a mirror;  
but then we shall be seeing face to face.  
The knowledge that I have now is imperfect;  
but then I shall know as fully as I am known.

13 In short, there are three things that last:  
faith, hope and love;  
and the greatest of these is love.

The word of the Lord.

## Reading

Hosea 2:21–26

Listen, brothers and sisters, to the words of the Prophet Hosea.

The Lord says this to Sion:

<sup>21</sup> I will betroth you to myself for ever,  
betroth you with integrity and justice,  
with tenderness and love;

<sup>22</sup> I will betroth you to myself with faithfulness,  
and you will come to know the Lord.

<sup>23</sup> When that day comes—it is the Lord who speaks —  
the heavens will have their answer from me,  
the earth its answer from them,

<sup>24</sup> the grain, the wine, the oil, their answer from the earth,  
and Jezreel his answer from them.

<sup>25</sup> I will sow him in the country,  
I will love Unloved;

<sup>26</sup> I will say to No-People-of-Mine, “You are my people,”  
and he will answer, “You are my God.”

The word of the Lord.

Reading

Philippians 2:1-5

Listen, brothers and sisters, to the words of the Apostle Paul to the Philippians.

- <sup>1</sup> If our life in Christ means anything to you,  
if love can persuade at all,  
or the Spirit that we have in common,  
or any tenderness and sympathy,
- <sup>2</sup> then be united in your convictions and united in your love,  
with a common purpose and a common mind.  
That is the one thing which would make me completely happy.
- <sup>3</sup> There must be no competition among you, no conceit;  
but everybody is to be self-effacing.  
Always consider the other person to be better than yourself,
- <sup>4</sup> so that nobody thinks of his own interests first  
but everybody thinks of other people's interest instead.
- <sup>5</sup> In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus.
- The word of the Lord.