



CATHEDRAL WEDDING HANDBOOK

READINGS

Couples are asked to prayerfully review and choose the Old Testament, Responsorial Psalm, New Testament, and Gospel readings for their wedding liturgy. Marriage is a sacrament of the Church, and a sacred event, so it is important to choose appropriate liturgy and prayer. The liturgy should speak not only of the love you and your fiancée have for each other, but also of God's love for us, and your love for Him.

The wedding celebration can include up to three readers at the liturgy - the options for readers:

- One for the first reading, one for the second reading, and one for the Prayers of the Faithful.
- One person for the first reading, second reading, and the Prayers of the Faithful.
- One person for the first reading, second and the Presider reads the Prayers of the Faithful.

Readers of the Old Testament and New Testament readings must be Catholic. The reader of the Prayers of the Faithful may be Catholic or of another Christian faith. When choosing readers, please choose people who have had experience with reading in their own parish or Church and who can proclaim the Word of God with familiarity.

Readers should plan on attending the wedding rehearsal. Engaged couples are asked to provide readers with a copy of "their" reading.

LITURGY OF THE WORD SELECTIONS

(Complete this in the main policy handbook)

**These are the only readings allowable at Catholic Liturgies*

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

LECTIONARY # 1: GENESIS 1:26-28, 31

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 divine image 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.

LECTIONARY #2: 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 body.

The word of the Lord.

LECTIONARY #3: GENESIS 24:48-51, 58-67

A reading from the book of Genesis

The servant of Abraham said to Laban:

"Then 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.

LECTIONARY #4: TOBIT 7:9-10, 11-15

A reading from the book of Tobit

Raguel sprang up and kissed him, shedding tears of joy.

But when he heard that Tobit had lost his eyesight, he was grieved and wept aloud.

He said to Tobiah: "My child, God bless you!

You are the son of a noble and good father.

But what a terrible misfortune that such a righteous and charitable man
should be afflicted with blindness!"

He continued to weep in the arms of his kinsman Tobiah.
 His wife Edna also wept for Tobit; and even their daughter Sarah began to weep.
 Afterward, Raguel slaughtered a ram from the flock and gave them a cordial reception.
 When they had bathed and reclined to eat, 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. But I will explain the situation to you very frankly.
 I have given her in marriage to seven men,
 all of whom were kinsmen of ours, and all died on the very night they approached her.
 But now, son, eat and drink. I am sure the Lord will look after you both."
 Tobiah answered, "I will eat or drink nothing until you set aside what belongs to me."
 Raguel said to him: "I will do it.
 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 of heaven grant both of you peace and prosperity."
 He then called her 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 he drew up the contract,
 to which they affixed their seals.
 Afterward they began to eat and drink.
 The Word of the Lord.

LECTIONARY #5: TOBIT 8:4B-8

A reading from the book of Tobit

Their wedding night Sarah got up,
 and she and Tobiah started to pray
 and beg that deliverance might be theirs.
 He began with these words:
 "Blessed are you, O God of our fathers;
 praised be your name forever and ever.
 Let the heavens and all your creation
 praise you forever.
 You made Adam, and you gave him his wife Eve
 to be his help and support;
 and from these two the human race descended.
 You said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone;
 let us make him a partner like himself.'
 Now, Lord, you know that I take this wife of mine
 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."

The word of the Lord.

LECTIONARY #6: PROVERBS 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 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 of her labors,
and let her works praise her at the city gates.

The word of the Lord.

LECTIONARY #7: SONG OF SONGS 2:8-10, 14, 16; 8:6-7

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 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.
He said to me:
set me as a seal on your heart, as a seal on your arm;
for stern as death is love,
relentless as the nether world is devotion;
its flames are a blazing fire.
Deep waters cannot quench love, nor floods sweep it away.

The word of the Lord.

LECTIONARY #8: 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.

LECTIONARY #9: 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 kinsmen
how to know the LORD.

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

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PSALM 33

Response: The earth is full of the goodness, the goodness of the Lord.

They are happy, whose God is the Lord.
the people he has chosen as his own.
The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love.

Our soul is waiting for the Lord.
The Lord is our help and our shield.
In him do our hearts find joy.
We trust in his holy name.

May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you.

PSALM 34

Response: I will bless the Lord at all times.

I will bless the LORD at all times,
God's praise always on my lips;
in the LORD my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad.

Glorify the LORD with me.
Together let us praise God's name.
I sought the LORD and was heard;
from all my terrors set free.

Look towards God and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.
When the poor cry out the LORD hears them.
and rescues them from all their distress.

The angel of the LORD is encamped
around those who fear God, to rescue them.
Taste and see that the LORD is good.
They are happy who seek refuge in God.

PSALM 103

Response: The Lord is kind and merciful.

My soul, give thanks to the LORD,
all my being, bless God's holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the LORD
and never forget all God's blessings.

The LORD is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
As parents have compassion on their children,
the LORD has pity on those who are God-fearing.

But the love of the LORD is everlasting
upon those who fear the LORD.
God's justice reaches out to children's children
when they keep his covenant in truth,
when they keep his will in their mind.

PSALM 145

Response: The Lord is compassionate to all his creatures.

You are kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good you are, Lord to all,
compassionate to all your creatures.

All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord,
and your friends shall repeat their blessing.
The eyes of all creatures look to you and you give them their food in due season.

You are just in all your ways
and loving in all your deeds.
You are close to all who call you,
Who call on you from their hearts.

PSALM 148

Response: Let all praise the name of the Lord.

Praise the Lord from the heavens,
praise him in the heights.
Praise him, all his angels,
praise him, all his host.

Praise him, sun and moon, the old together with the young.
praise him, shining stars.
Praise him, highest heavens
and the waters above the heavens

All mountains and hills,
all fruit trees and cedars,
beasts, wild game and tame,
all earth's rulers and peoples,
the old together with the young.

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

LECTIONARY #1: ROMANS 8:31-35, 37-39

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

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.

LECTIONARY #2 [LONG FORM]: ROMANS 12:1-2, 9-18

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

I urge you therefore, brothers,
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.

LECTIONARY #2A [SHORT FORM]: ROMANS 12:1-2, 9-13

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

I urge you therefore, brothers,
by the mercies of God,
to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice,
holy and pleasing to God,
your spiritual worship.
Do not conform yourselves to this age
but be transformed by the renewal of your mind,
that you may discern what is the will of God,
what is good and pleasing and perfect.
Let love be sincere;
hate what is evil, hold on to what is good;
love one another with mutual affection;
anticipate one another in showing honor.
Do not grow slack in zeal,
be fervent in spirit,
serve the Lord.
Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction,
persevere in prayer.
Contribute to the needs of the holy ones,
exercise hospitality.
The word of the Lord.

LECTIONARY #3: ROMANS 15.1B-3A, 5-7, 13

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

We who are strong
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

LECTIONARY #4: 1 CORINTHIANS 6:13-15, 17-20

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

The body, however, 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.

LECTIONARY #5: 1 CORINTHIANS 12:31-13:8

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

Strive eagerly for the greatest spiritual gifts.
But I shall show you a still more excellent way.
If I speak in human and angelic tongues
but do not have love,
I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal.
And if I have the gift of prophecy
and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge;
if I have all faith so as to move mountains
but do not have love, I am nothing.
If I give away everything I own,
and if I hand my body over
so that I may boast but do not have love,
I gain nothing.
Love is patient, love is kind.
It is not jealous, (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.

The word of the Lord.

LECTIONARY #6 [LONG FORM]: EPHESIANS 5:2, 21-33

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians

In love,
as Christ loved us and handed himself over for us.
Be subordinate to one another out of reverence for Christ.
Wives should be subordinate to their husbands as to the Lord.
For the husband is head of his wife
just as Christ is head of the church,
he himself the savior of the body.
As the church is subordinate to Christ,
so wives should be subordinate to their husbands in everything.
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.
In any case, each one of you should love his wife as himself,
and the wife should respect her husband.

The word of the Lord.

LECTIONARY #6A [SHORT FORM]: EPHESIANS 5:2, 25-32

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians

In love,
as Christ loved us
and handed himself over for us.
Be subordinate to one another out of reverence for Christ.
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.

LECTIONARY #7: PHILIPPIANS 4.4-9

A Reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians

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,
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

LECTIONARY #8: COLOSSIANS 3.12 -17

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians

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.

LECTIONARY #9: HEBREWS 13.1-4A, 5-6B

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Let mutual love continue.
Do not neglect hospitality,
for through it
some have unknowingly entertained angels.
Be mindful of prisoners
as if sharing their imprisonment,
and of the ill-treated as of yourselves,
for you also are in the body.
Let marriage be honored among all
and the marriage bed be kept undefiled,
Let your life be free from love of money
but be content with what you have,
for he has said, "I will never forsake you or abandon you."
Thus we may say with confidence:
"The Lord is my helper, (and) I will not be afraid.
The word of the Lord.

LECTIONARY #10: 1 PETER 3:1-9

A reading from the first letter of Saint Peter

Likewise,
you wives should be subordinate to your husbands
so that, even if some disobey the word,
they may be won over without a word by their wives' conduct
when they observe your reverent and chaste behavior.
Your adornment should not be an external one:
braiding the hair, wearing gold jewelry,
or dressing in fine clothes,
but rather the hidden character of the heart,
expressed in the imperishable beauty of a gentle and calm disposition,
which is precious in the sight of God.
For this is also how the holy women who hoped in God
once used to adorn themselves
and were subordinate to their husbands;
thus Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him "lord."
You are her children
when you do what is good and fear no intimidation.

Likewise, you husbands
should live with your wives in understanding,
showing honor to the weaker female sex,
since we are joint heirs of the gift of life,
so that your prayers may not be hindered.
Finally, all of you,
be of one mind,
sympathetic, loving toward one another,
compassionate, humble.
Do not return evil for evil, or insult for insult;
but, on the contrary,
a blessing,
because to this you were called,
that you might inherit a blessing.

The word of the Lord.

LECTIONARY #11: I JOHN 3:18-24

A reading from the first letter of Saint John

Children, let us love one another
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.

LECTIONARY #12: 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 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.

LECTIONARY #13: REVELATION 19:1, 5-9

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.

GOSPEL READINGS

LECTIONARY #1: MATTHEW 5:1-12

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

When he 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.

LECTIONARY #2: 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 lamp stand, where it gives light to all in the house.

Just so,

your light must shine before others,

that they may see your good deeds

and glorify your heavenly Father."

The Gospel of the Lord.

LECTIONARY #3 [LONG FORM]: 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 his teaching,
for he taught them as one having authority,
and not as their scribes.
The Gospel of the Lord.

LECTIONARY #3A [SHORT FORM]: MATTHEW 7:21, 24-25

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples:
"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,'
will enter the kingdom of heaven,
but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven.
Everyone who listens to these words of mine
and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock.
The rain fell, the floods came,
and the winds blew and buffeted the house.
But it did not collapse;
it had been set solidly on rock.
The Gospel of the Lord.

LECTIONARY #4: MATTHEW 19:3-6

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

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,
no human being must separate."
The Gospel of the Lord.

LECTIONARY #5: MATTHEW 22:35-40

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

One of the Pharisees (a scholar of the law)

tested Jesus by asking,
"Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?"
He said to him,
"You shall love the Lord, your God,
with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.
This is the greatest and the first commandment.
The second is like it:
you shall love your neighbor as yourself.
The whole law and the prophets
depend on these two commandments."
The Gospel of the Lord.

LECTIONARY #6: MARK 10:6-9

A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark

Jesus said:
"From the beginning of creation,
'God made them male and female.
For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother
(and be joined to his wife),
and the two shall become one flesh.'
So they are no longer two but one flesh.
Therefore what God has joined together,
no human being must separate."
The Gospel of the Lord.

LECTIONARY #7: 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 servers 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.

LECTIONARY #8: JOHN 15:9-12

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 may be in you

and your joy may be complete.

This is my commandment:

love one another as I love you."

The Gospel of the Lord.

LECTIONARY #9: JOHN 15:12-16

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples:

"This is my commandment:

love one another as I love you.

No one has greater love than this,

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

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

I 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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

LECTIONARY #10 [LONG FORM]: JOHN 17:20-26

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

Jesus looked up to heaven and prayed:

"Holy Father, I pray not only for my disciples,

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.

LECTIONARY #10A [SHORT FORM]: JOHN 17:20-23

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

Jesus looked up to heaven and prayed:

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

The Gospel of the Lord.