

# OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

Pick one reading

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## **A reading from the Book of Ruth 1:16-17**

But Ruth said, “Don’t urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Wherever you go, I will go. Wherever you live, I will live. Your people shall be my people and your God will be my God too. Where you die, I will die and there will I be buried beside you. We shall be together forever, and our love will be the gift of God.

### **The word of the Lord**

## **A reading from the Book of Genesis 1:26-28, 31a**

Then God said:

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

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

God blessed them, saying:

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

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

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

### **The word of the Lord.**

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

The Lord God said: “It is not good 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 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.**

**A reading from the Book of Tobit 8:4b-8**

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 be your name forever and ever.  
Let the heavens and all your creation  
praise you forever.  
You made Adam and you gave him his wife Eve  
to be his help and support;  
and from these two the human race descended.  
You said, ‘It is not good for the man to be alone;  
let us make him a partner like himself.’  
Now, Lord, you know that I take this wife of mine  
not because of lust,  
but for a noble purpose.  
Call down your mercy on me and on her,  
and allow us to live together to a happy old age.”  
They said together, “Amen, amen.”

**The word of the Lord.**

**A reading from the Book of Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31**

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.**

**A reading from the Song of Songs 2:8-10, 14, 16a; 8:6-7a**

Hark! my lover—here he comes  
springing across the mountains,  
leaping across the hills.  
My lover is like a gazelle  
or a young stag.  
Here he stands behind our wall,  
gazing through the windows,  
peering through the lattices.  
My lover speaks; he says to me,  
“Arise, my beloved, my dove, my beautiful one, and  
come! “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 says 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.**

### **A reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah 31:31-32a, 33-34a**

The days are coming, says the Lord,  
when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the  
house of Judah.

It will not be like the covenant I made with their fathers: the day I  
took them by the hand

to lead them forth from the land of Egypt.

But this is the covenant which I will make  
with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord. I will place  
my law within them, and write it upon their hearts; I will be their  
God, and they shall be my people.

No longer will they have need to teach their friends and relatives  
how to know the Lord.

All, from least to greatest, shall know me, says the Lord.

**The word of the Lord.**

### **A reading from the Book of Sirach (26: 1-4)**

A loving partner is a safe shelter, whoever finds one has found  
a rare treasure. A loving partner is something beyond price,  
there is no measuring their worth. A loving partner is a life-  
saving remedy, and those who respect their Lord find true love.

For as a person is, so is their loved one.

**The word of the Lord.**

## **NEW TESTAMENT READINGS** Pick one reading

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### **A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians 4:1-6**

Brothers and sisters:

I, a prisoner for the Lord,

urge you to live in a manner worthy of the call you have  
received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience,

bearing with one another through love,

striving to preserve the unity of the Spirit

through the bond of peace: one Body and one Spirit,

as you were also called to the one hope of your call;

one Lord, one faith, one baptism;

one God and Father of all,

who is over all and through all and in all.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans 12:1-2, 9-13

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

**The word of the Lord.**

**A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans 15:1b-3a, 5-7, 13**

Brothers and sisters:

We ought to put up with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves;

let each of us please our neighbor for the good, for building up.

For Christ did not please himself.

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to think in harmony with one another, in keeping with Christ Jesus,

that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you, or 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.**

**A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians 6:13c 15a, 17-20**

Brothers and sisters:

The body is not for immorality, but for the Lord,

And the Lord is for the body;

God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power.

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

**A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians 12:31– 13:8a**

Brothers and sisters:

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, 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.**

**A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians 5:2a, 25-32**

Brothers and sisters:

Live in love, as Christ loved us  
and handed himself over for us.  
Husbands, love your wives,  
even as Christ loved the Church  
and handed himself over for her to sanctify her,  
cleansing her by the bath of water with the word,  
that he might present to himself the Church in splendor,  
without spot or wrinkle or any such thing,  
that she might be holy and without blemish.

So also husbands should love their wives as their own bodies.  
He who loves his wife loves himself.  
For no one hates his own flesh  
but rather nourishes and cherishes it,  
even as Christ does the Church,  
because we are members of his Body.  
For this reason a man shall leave his father and his  
mother and be joined to his wife,  
and the two shall become one flesh.  
This is a great mystery,  
but I speak in reference to Christ and the Church.

**The word of the Lord.**

**A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians 4:4-9**

Brothers and sisters:

Rejoice in the Lord always.

I shall say it again: rejoice!

Your kindness should be known to all.

The Lord is near.

Have no anxiety at all, but in everything,  
by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving,  
make your requests known to God.

Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your  
hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters,  
whatever is true, whatever is honorable,  
whatever is just, whatever is pure,  
whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious,  
if there is any excellence  
and if there is anything worthy of praise,  
think about these things.

Keep on doing what you have learned and received  
and heard and seen in me.

Then the God of peace will be with you.

**The word of the Lord.**

**A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians 3:12-17**

Brothers and sisters:

Put on, 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.**

### **A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews 13:1-4a, 5-6b**

Brothers and sisters:

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.

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John 3:18-24 Children,  
let us love not in word or speech  
but in deed and truth.

Now this is how we shall know that we belong to the truth  
and reassure our hearts before him  
in whatever our hearts condemn,  
for God is greater than our hearts and knows everything.  
Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us,  
we have confidence in God  
and receive from him whatever we ask,  
because we keep his commandments and do what pleases  
him. And his commandment is this:

we should believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and



love one another just as he commanded us.  
Those who keep his commandments remain in him, and he  
in them, and the way we know that he remains in us  
is from the Spirit that he gave us.

**The word of the Lord.**

**A reading from the first Letter of Saint John 4:7-12** Beloved,

let us love one another,  
because love is of God;  
everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God.  
Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love.  
In this way the love of God was revealed to us:  
God sent his only-begotten Son into the world  
so that we might have life through him.  
In this is love:  
not that we have loved God, but that he loved us  
and sent his Son as expiation for our sins.  
Beloved, if God so loved us,  
we also must love one another.  
No one has ever seen God.  
Yet, if we love one another, God remains in us,  
and his love is brought to perfection in us.

**The word of the Lord.**

**A reading from the Book of Revelation 19:1, 5-9a**

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.”  
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.**