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so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me,

WEDDING READINGS

FIRST READING (Old Testament)

A Genesis 1:26-28 (Male & Female God created them)

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 animals and all the creatures that creep along the ground.

God created man in the image of himself, in the image of God he created him, male and female he created them.

God blessed them, saying to them, 'Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth and subdue it. Be masters of the fish of the sea, the birds of heaven and all the living creatures that move on earth.'

The Word of the Lord

FIRST READING (Old Testament)

B. Genesis 2: 18-24 (And they become two in one flesh)

The Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone. "I shall make him a helper as his partner."

So out of the ground the LORD God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle and to the birds of the air and to every animal of the field; but for the man was not found a helper as his partner. So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken." Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

The Word of the Lord

FIRST READING (Old Testament)

C. Tobit 8:4b-8 (May God bring us to old age together)

Tobias got out of bed, and said to Sarah, "Sister, get up, and let us pray and implore our Lord that he grant us mercy and safety. She got up, and they began to pray and implore that they might be kept safe. Tobias began by saying, "Blessed are you, O God of our ancestors, and blessed is your name in all generations forever. Let the heavens and the whole creation bless you forever. You made Adam and for him you made his wife Eve as a helper and support. From the two of them the human race has sprung. You said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; let us make a helper for him like himself." I now am taking this kinswoman of mine, not because of lust, but with sincerity. Grant that she and I may find mercy and that we may grow old together." And they both said Amen, Amen."

The Word of the Lord

FIRST READING (Old Testament)

- D. Proverbs 31: 10-13; 19-20; 30-31 (The woman who fears the Lord is to be praised)

A capable wife - who can find? She is far more precious than jewels. The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain. She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life. She seeks wool and flax, and works with willing hands.

She puts her hands to the distaff, and her hands hold the spindle. She opens her hand to the poor, and reaches out her hands to the needy.

Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. Give her a share in the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the city gates.

The Word of the Lord

FIRST READING (Old Testament)

- E. Sirach 26: 1-2, 16-21 (The beauty of a good wife in a well-kept house is like the beauty of the rising sun)

Happy is the husband of a good wife; the number of his days will be doubled. A loyal wife brings joy to her husband, and he will complete his years in peace.

Like the sun rising in the heights of the Lord, so is the beauty of a good wife in her well-ordered home. Like the shining lamp on the holy lamp stand, so is a beautiful face on a stately figure. Like golden pillars on silver bases, so are shapely legs and steadfast feet.

My child, keep sound the bloom of your youth, and do not give your strength to strangers. Seek a fertile field within the whole plain, and sow it with your own seed, trusting in your fine stock. So your offspring will prosper, and, having confidence in their good descent, will grow great.

The Word of the Lord

SECOND READING (New Testament)

A. 1 Corinthians 12:31 – 13:8a (If I am without love, it will do me no good whatever)

Strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way. If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but I do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, ensures all things. Love never ends.

The Word of the Lord

SECOND READING (New Testament)

B. Ephesians 5:2a, 25-32 (This is the great mystery and it applies to Christ and the Church)

Live in love, as Christ loved us. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the Church and gave himself up for her, in order to make her holy by cleansing her with the washing of water by the word, so as to present the church to himself in splendor, without a spot or wrinkle or anything of the kind – yes, so that she may be holy and without blemish. In the same way, husbands should love their wives as they do their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hates his own body, but he nourishes and tenderly cares for it, just as Christ does for the church, because we are members of his body. For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. This is a great mystery, and I am applying it to Christ and the church.

The Word of the Lord

SECOND READING (New Testament)

C. Philippians 4:4-9 (The God of peace will be with you)

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other, just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

The Word of the Lord

SECOND READING (New Testament)

D. Colossians 3:12-17 (Above all have love, which is the bond of perfection)

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other, just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

The Word of the Lord

SECOND READING (New Testament)

E. The First Letter of John 4:7-12 (God is love)

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way; God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

The Word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALMS

A. Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 142)

RESPONSE: Let them praise the name of the Lord.

Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights (R)

Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host (R)

Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, shining stars (R)

RESPONSORIAL PSALMS

B. Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 33)

RESPONSE: Lord let your love be upon us as we place all our trust in you.

Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just, for praise is fitting for loyal hearts. Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp, with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs.(R)

For the word of the Lord is faithful and all his works to be trusted. The Lord loves justice and right and fills the earth with his love. (R)

The Lord looks on those who revere him, on those who hope in his love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine.(R)

RESPONSORIAL PSALMS

C. Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 128)

RESPONSE: Happy are those who fear the Lord

Happy is everyone who fears the Lord, who walks in his ways. (R)

You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands; you shall be happy, and it shall go well with you. (R)

Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your children will be like olive shoots around your table. (R)

GOSPEL READINGS FOR WEDDINGS

JOHN 2: 1-11

*There was a wedding in Cana in Galilee,
and the mother of Jesus was there.
Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding.
When the wine ran short,
the mother of Jesus said to him,
“They have no wine.”
And Jesus said to her,
“Woman, how does your concern affect me?
My hour has not yet come.”
His mother said to the servers,
“Do whatever he tells you.”
Now there were six stone water jars there for Jewish ceremonial washings,
each holding twenty to thirty gallons.
Jesus told them,
“Fill the jars with water.”
So they filled them to the brim.
Then he told them,
“Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter.”
So they took it.
And when the headwaiter tasted the water that had become wine,
without knowing where it came from
(although the servants who had drawn the water knew),
the headwaiter called the bridegroom and said to him,
“Everyone serves good wine first,
and then when people have drunk freely, an inferior one;
but you have kept the good wine until now.”
Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs in Cana in Galilee
and so revealed his glory,
and his disciples began to believe in him.*

MATTHEW 5: 1-12a

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.”

MATTHEW 5: 13-16

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.”

Matthew 7:21, 24 - 29

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 Lectionary gives a shortened option: the text above. A couple or priest may choose to add the following conclusion to the parable of the two foundations:

*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.*

MATTHEW 19: 3-6

Some Pharisees approached Jesus, and tested him, saying,

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

*He said in reply, “Have you not read that from the beginning
the Creator made them male and female and said,*

*For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother
and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh?*

So they are no longer two, but one flesh.

Therefore, what God has joined together, man must not separate.”

MARK 10: 6-9

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.”

JOHN 17: 20-26

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said:

*“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.”*