

When scripture is being proclaimed in liturgy, it is often formatted in large print and with line breaks to help guide the flow of the proclamation. These readings are the common ones used for weddings, formatted exactly as they will appear at the ambo. Once you have selected your readings, we encourage you to give your lectors a copy of the reading in advance, so that they can become comfortable with them and confident in their proclamation.

### **First Reading**

**F1**    **Genesis 1:26-28, 31a**

*"...in the divine image he created him; male and female he created them."*

God creates humanity, gives them the command to multiply and have dominion over the earth, and sees His creation as good.

**F2**    **Genesis 2:18-24**

*"...the man said: "This one, at last, is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh..."*

When Adam finds no suitable companion among the animals, God creates Eve from his rib.

**F3**    **Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31**

*"Her husband, entrusting his heart to her, has an unfailing prize."*

A proverb praising the value of a holy wife.

**F4**    **Tobit 8:4-7**

*"Call down your mercy... and allow us to live together to a happy old age."*

Tobiah and Sarah pray on their wedding night that the Lord will bless them.

**F5**    **Song of Songs 2:8-10, 14, 16, 8:6-7**

*"My beloved is mine and I am his."*

A love poem from a bride to her bridegroom, or the soul to God.

**F6**    **Sirach 26:1-4, 13-16**

*"A holy and decent woman adds grace upon grace... no price is worthy of her"*

Reflections on the blessings a good wife brings to her husband.

### **Second Reading**

**S1**    **Romans 8:31-35, 37-39**

*"...in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us."*

Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ.

**S2**    **1 Corinthians 12:31- 13:8a**

*"Love never ends."*

No gifts or virtues are worth anything without love.

**S3**    **Colossians 3:12-17**

*"Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins."*

God has chosen us, and so we must be clothed in virtue and wisdom.

**S4**    **1 John 4:7-12**

*"Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God..."*

Because God has loved us by giving us His Son, we must love all others.

**S5 Romans 15:1b-3a, 5-7, 13**

*“May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to think in harmony...”*  
We deny ourselves and help our neighbors, in imitation of Christ.

**S6 Philippians 4:4-9**

*“Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice!”*  
The peace of God will be with us, as we show kindness and goodness to all.

**S7 Hebrews 13:1-4a, 5-6b**

*“Let marriage be honored among all and the marriage bed be kept undefiled.”*  
Live in mutual love, for the Lord will never abandon us.

**S8 Revelations 19:1, 5-9**

*“...this is the wedding day of the Lamb, his bride has prepared herself for the wedding.”*  
Heaven gives praise to God, as the wedding feast of the Lamb begins.

**Gospel**

**G1 Matthew 5:1-12a**

*“Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God.”*  
Jesus teaches the beatitudes to his disciples.

**G2 Matthew 5:13-16**

*“You are the salt of the earth... you are the light of the world.”*  
Jesus tells his disciples that they must live holy lives, that others may see their example.

**G3 Matthew 7:21, 24-29**

*“Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock.”*  
Hearing and acting on the words of Jesus gives us a sure foundation.

**G4 Matthew 19:3-6**

*“...what God has joined together, no human being must separate.”*  
Jesus rejects the lawfulness of divorce.

**G5 Matthew 22:35-40**

*“You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind... you shall love your neighbor as yourself.”*  
Jesus gives the two great commandments.

**G6 Mark 10:6-9**

*“So they are no longer two but one flesh.”*  
Jesus repeats the words of Genesis, naming the basis of marriage.

**G7 John 2:1-11**

*“Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding.”*  
Jesus performs his first miracle at the wedding in Cana.

**G8 John 15:9-17**

*“This I command you: love one another.”*  
Jesus calls us his friends, and tells us to remain in his love.

**G9 John 17:1a,20-23**

*“...that they may be brought to perfection as one...”*  
Jesus prays that his disciples might remain together and unified.

A reading from the book of Genesis.

(pause)

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 humankind 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.

(pause)

The Word of the Lord.

. Thanks be to God.

A reading from the book of Genesis.

(pause)

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.

(pause)

The Word of the Lord.

. Thanks be to God.

A reading from the book of Proverbs.

(pause)

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 her clothes with skillful hands.

She puts her hands to the distaff, and her fingers to 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.

(pause)

The Word of the Lord.

. Thanks be to God.

A reading from the book of Tobit.

(pause)

When Sarah's parents left the bedroom and closed the door behind them, Tobiah arose from bed and said to his wife, "My love, get up. Let us pray and beg our Lord to have mercy on us and to grant us deliverance."

She got up, and they 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."

(pause)

The Word of the Lord.

. Thanks be to God.

A reading from the Song of Songs.

(pause)

I hear my beloved. See how he comes leaping on the mountains, bounding over the hills.

My Beloved is like a gazelle, like a young stag.

See where he stands behind our wall.

He looks in at the window, he peers through the lattice.

My Beloved lifts up his voice, he says to me, “Come then, my love, my lovely one, come. My dove, hiding in the clefts of the rock, in the coverts of the cliff, show me your face, let me hear your voice; for your voice is sweet and your face beautiful.”

My beloved is mine and I am his.

He said to me: Set me like a seal on your heart, like a seal on your arm. For love is strong as Death, jealousy relentless as Sheol.

The flash of it is a flash of fire, a flame of the Lord himself.

Love no flood can quench, no torrents drown.

(pause)

The Word of the Lord.

. Thanks be to God.

A reading from the book of Sirach.

(pause)

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

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

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

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

A holy and decent woman adds grace upon grace; indeed, no price is worthy of her temperate soul.

Like the sun rising in the Lord's heavens, the beauty of a virtuous wife is the radiance of her home.

(pause)

The Word of the Lord.

. Thanks be to God.



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

(pause)

What then shall we say to this? 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.

(pause)

The Word of the Lord.

. Thanks be to God.

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

(pause)

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 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.

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

Love takes no pleasure in other people's sins but delights in the truth.

It is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope, and to endure whatever comes.

Love never ends.

(pause)

The Word of the Lord.

. Thanks be to God.

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

(pause)

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.

Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins.

The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same.

Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. 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. Let the word of Christ, rich as it is, find a home in 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.

And never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

(pause)

The Word of the Lord.

. Thanks be to God.

A reading from the first letter of John.

(pause)

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.

Love, then, consists in this: 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.

(pause)

The Word of the Lord.

. Thanks be to God.

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

(pause)

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 neighbors 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.

(pause)

The Word of the Lord.

. Thanks be to God.

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

(pause)

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  
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.

(pause)

The Word of the Lord.

. Thanks be to God.

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

(pause)

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.”

(pause)

The Word of the Lord.

. Thanks be to God.

A reading from the book of Revelation.

(pause)

I, John, heard what sounded like the loud song of a great assembly in heaven.

They were singing: “Alleluia! Salvation, glory, and might belong to our God.”

A voice coming from the throne cried out: “Praise our God, all you his servants, the small and the great, who revere him!”

Then I heard what sounded like the shouts of a great crowd, or the roaring of the deep, or mighty peals of thunder, as they cried: “Alleluia! The Lord is king, our God, the Almighty!

Let us rejoice and be glad, and give him glory! For this is the wedding day of the Lamb, his bride has prepared herself for the wedding. She has been given a dress to wear made of finest linen, brilliant white.”

(The linen dress is the virtuous deeds of God's saints.)

The angel then said to me: “Write this down: Happy are they who have been invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb.”

(pause)

The Word of the Lord.

. Thanks be to God.



A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

(pause)

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.

(pause)

The Gospel of the Lord.

. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

(pause)

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.”

(pause)

The Gospel of the Lord.

. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

(pause)

"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."

(pause)

The Gospel of the Lord.

. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

(pause)

Some Pharisees approached him, 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."

(pause)

The Gospel of the Lord.

. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

(pause)

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them (a scholar of the law) tested him 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."

(pause)

The Gospel of the Lord.

. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

(pause)

But 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.

(pause)

The Gospel of the Lord.

. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

(pause)

On the third day 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, 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.

(pause)

The Gospel of the Lord.

. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

(pause)

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.

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.

This I command you: love one another.

(pause)

The Gospel of the Lord.

. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

(pause)

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 am 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.

(pause)

The Gospel of the Lord.

. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.