

Second Reading Selections

(choose one from the New Testament)

READING 1.NT

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

8:31-35, 37-39

Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ.

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

READING 2.NT

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

12:1-2; 9-18

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

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.
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.
Do not let your love be a pretence, but sincerely prefer good to evil.
Love each other as much as brothers should
and have a profound respect for each other.
Work for the Lord with untiring effort and with great earnestness of spirit.
If you have hope, this will make you cheerful.
Do not give up if trials come; and keep on praying.
If any of the saints are in need you must share with them;

and you should make hospitality your special care.
Bless those who persecute you: never curse them, bless them.
Rejoice with those who rejoice and be sad with those in sorrow.
Treat everyone with equal kindness; never be condescending
but make real friends with the poor.
Do not allow yourself to become self-satisfied.
Never repay evil with evil,
but let everyone see that you are interested only in the highest ideals.
Do all you can to live at peace with everyone.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Shorter form:

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

12:1-2, 9-13

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.
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and you should make hospitality your special care.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

READING 3. NT

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

15:1-3, 5-7, 13

Accept each other as Christ accepts you.

Without thinking of ourselves, each of us should think of his neighbours
and help them to become stronger Christians.
Christ did not think of himself.
And may God, who helps us when we refuse to give up,
help you all to be tolerant with each other,
following the example of Christ Jesus,
so that united in mind and voice
you may give glory to the God and Father
of our Lord Jesus Christ.
It can only be to God's glory, then,
for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you.

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.

Thanks be to God.

READING 4. NT

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

6:13-15, 17-20

Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit.

The body is not meant for fornication; it is for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.

God, who raised the Lord from the dead, will by his power raise us up too.

You know, surely, that your bodies are members making up the body of Christ.

But anyone who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with him.

Keep away from fornication.

All the other sins are committed outside the body;

but to fornicate is to sin against your own body.

Your body, you know, is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you since you received him from God.

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.

Thanks be to God.

READING 5. NT

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

12:31–13:8

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

Be ambitious for the higher gifts.

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

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.

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.

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 offence 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 does not come to an end.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

READING 6. NT

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians

4:1-6

One Body, one Lord, one faith, one baptism.

I, the prisoner in the Lord,
implore you to lead a life worthy of your vocation.
Bear with one another charitably,
in complete selflessness, gentleness and patience.
Do all you can to preserve the unity of the Spirit
by the peace that binds you together.
There is one Body, one Spirit,
just as you were called into one and the same hope
when you were called.
There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism,
and one God who is Father of all,
through all and within all.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

READING 7. NT

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians

5:2, 21-33

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

Follow Christ by loving as he loved you, giving himself up in our place.
Give way to one another in obedience to Christ.
Wives should regard their husbands as they regard the Lord,
since as Christ is head of the Church and saves the whole body,
so is a husband the head of his wife; and as the Church submits to Christ,
so should wives to their husbands, in everything.
Husbands should love their wives just as Christ loved the Church
and sacrificed himself for her to make her holy.
He made her clean by washing her in water with a form of words,
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.
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.
A man never hates his own body, but he feeds it and looks after it;
and that is the way Christ treats the Church,
because it is his body—and we are its living parts.
For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife,
and the two will become one body.
This mystery has many implications;
but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church.
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. Thanks be to God.

Shorter form:

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians

5:2, 25-32

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

Husbands should love their wives just as Christ loved the Church and sacrificed himself for her to make her holy.

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

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.

A man never hates his own body, but he feeds it and looks after it; and that is the way Christ treats the Church, because it is his body—and we are its living parts.

For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one body. This mystery has many implications; but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

READING 8. NT

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians

4:4-9

Fill your minds with everything that is pure.

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord;

I repeat, what I want is your happiness.

Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near.

There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

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.

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.

Thanks be to God.

READING 9. NT

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians

3:12-17

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

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 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
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. Thanks be to God.

READING 10. NT

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

13:1-4a, 5-6b

Marriage is to be honoured by all.

Continue to love each other like brothers,
and remember always to welcome strangers, for by doing this,
some people have entertained angels without knowing it.
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 body.
Marriage must be honoured by all;
put avarice out of your lives and be content with whatever you have;
God himself has said: I shall not fail you or desert you,
and so we can say with confidence:
With the Lord on my side, I fear nothing.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

READING 11. NT

A reading from the first letter of Saint Peter

3:1-9

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

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, when they see how faithful and conscientious they are.
Do not dress up for show: doing up your hair,
wearing gold bracelets or fine clothes; 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.

That was how the holy women of the past dressed themselves attractively—
they hoped in God and were tender and obedient to their husbands;
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 or worry.
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.
Finally: you should all agree among yourselves and be sympathetic;
love the brothers, have compassion and be self-effacing.
Never pay back one wrong with another one; instead, pay back with blessing.
That is what you are called to do, so that you inherit a blessing yourself.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

READING 12. NT

A reading from the first letter of Saint John

3:18-24

Our love is to be something real and active.

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

Thanks be to God.

READING 13. NT

A reading from the first letter of Saint John

4:7-12

God is love.

My dear people, let us love one another
since love comes from God

and everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God.

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

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

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

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.

Thanks be to God.