

FIRST READING

Instruction: This is the first reading. Approach the altar after the Opening Prayer when all people sit down.

A Reading from the Book of Proverbs

A perfect wife - who can find her? She is far beyond the price of pearls. Her husband's heart has confidence in her; from her he will derive no little profit.

Advantage and not hurt she brings him all the days of her life.

She gets up while it is still dark giving her household their food.

She finds her labor well worthwhile; her lamp does not go out at night.

She holds out her hand to the poor, she opens her arms to the needy.

Snow may come; she has no fears for her household, with all her servants warmly clothed.

Her husband is respected at the city gates, taking his seat among the elders of the land.

She is clothed in strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. When she opens her mouth, she does so wisely; on her tongue is kindly instruction. She keeps good watch on the conduct of her household, no bread of idleness for her.

Her children stand up and proclaim her blessed, her husband, too sings her praises.

Many women have done admirable things, but you surpass them all!

Charm is deceitful and beauty empty; the woman who is wise is the one to praise.

The Word of the Lord

(Proverbs 31:10-31 - selected verses)