

FIRST READING

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

A Reading from the Book of Sirach

A faithful friend is a sturdy shelter;
You who find one find a treasure.
A faithful friend is beyond price,
no sum can balance this worth.
A faithful friend is a life-saving remedy,
such as you who fear God find;
For you who fear God behave accordingly,
and your friend will be like yourself.

The Word of the Lord

(Sirach 6:14-17)