

A reading from the Book of Sirach

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 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.

The Word of the Lord.