

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

The Wedding Ceremony, whether it takes place during the Celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass or a Celebration of the Liturgy of the Word, consists of four passages of Scripture. One passage comes from the Old Testament (the readings in this document), one from the Psalms, one from the New Testament (excluding the Gospels), and one from the Gospels.

If your wedding takes place during the Easter Season, the first reading may be taken from the New Testament reading options instead of the Old Testament. It is exceedingly recommended to have the Responsorial Psalm sung, and the ordinary music ministers of the Church will know how this is done. If, for exceptional reasons, it is determined that the Responsorial Psalm will be read, the wedding couple may pick up to four (4) lectors. The First Reading, the Responsorial Psalm (if not sung), and Second Reading are available to be read by the laity (non-ordained). The Gospel is reserved to the Priest or Deacon, and therefore will only be read by them. The petitions, or prayers of the faithful may be read by a member of the Laity, unless a deacon is present. None of these are mandatory, but available options for members of the family and friends to take part in the liturgy.

The order of the readings are not to be changed and go as follows:

1. First Reading
2. Responsorial Psalm
3. Second Reading
4. Gospel Reading

It is not mandatory, but *highly recommended* that the lectors be Catholic. Please have them attend the rehearsal so that they may practice. If they are lectors in their church, they do not need to attend the rehearsal, unless they wish to practice. The priest/deacon will provide a print out of the readings and petitions at the rehearsal for the lectors. **The lectors will NOT use the practice papers during the liturgy. The readings and petitions will be in a binder for the liturgy.** The lectors should understand that they **only** read the parts in the black that appear on the following pages. No other words should be added or any words be removed. The readings are to be read as provided. No introductory or dismissal words should be added or subtracted.

If you have any questions, please contact the priest or deacon at your earliest convenience.

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS – OPTION 1

A reading from the Book of Genesis *(Pause)* Genesis 1:26-28, 31a

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 man in his image;

in the image of God 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

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS – OPTION 2

A reading from the Book of Genesis (*Pause*) *Genesis 2:18-24*

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 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

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS – OPTION 3

A reading from the Book of Genesis (*Pause*) *Genesis 24:48-51, 58-67*

The servant of Abraham said to Laban:

“I bowed down in worship to the Lord,

blessing the Lord, the God of my master Abraham,

who had led me on the right road

to obtain the daughter of my master’s kinsman for his son.

If, therefore, you have in mind to show true loyalty to my master,

let me know;

but if not, let me know that, too.

I can then proceed accordingly.”

Laban and his household said in reply:

“This thing comes from the Lord;

we can say nothing to you either for or against it.

Here is Rebekah, ready for you;

take her with you,

that she may become the wife of your master’s son,

as the Lord has said.”

So they called Rebekah and asked her,

“Do you wish to go with this man?”

She answered, “I do.”

At this they allowed their sister Rebekah and her nurse to take leave,

along with Abraham’s servant and his men.

Invoking a blessing on Rebekah, they said:

“Sister, may you grow into thousands of myriads;
And may your descendants gain possession
of the gates of their enemies!”

Then Rebekah and her maids started out;
they mounted their camels and followed the man.
so the servant took Rebekah and went on his way.

Meanwhile Isaac had gone from Beer-lahai-roi
and was living in the region of the Negeb.

One day toward evening he went out . . . in the field,
and as he looked around, he noticed that camels were approaching.

Rebekah, too, was looking about, and when she saw him,
she alighted from her camel and asked the servant,

“Who is the man out there, walking through the fields toward us?”

“That is my master,” replied the servant.

Then she covered herself with her veil.

The servant recounted to Isaac all the things he had done.

Then Isaac took Rebekah into his tent;
he married her, and thus she became his wife.

In his love for her Isaac found solace
after the death of his mother Sarah. *(Pause)*

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS – OPTION 4

A reading from the Book of Tobit (*Pause*) *Tobit 7:6-14*

Raphael and Tobiah entered the house of Raguel and greeted him.

Raguel sprang up and kissed Tobiah, shedding tears of joy.

But when he heard that Tobit had lost his eyesight,

he was grieved and wept aloud.

He said to Tobiah:

“My child, God bless you!

You are the son of a noble and good father.

But what a terrible misfortune

that such a righteous and charitable man

should be afflicted with blindness!”

He continued to weep in the arms of his kinsman Tobiah.

His wife Edna also wept for Tobit;

and even their daughter Sarah began to weep.

Afterward, Raguel slaughtered a ram from the flock

and gave them a cordial reception.

When they had bathed and reclined to eat,

Tobiah said to Raphael, “Brother Azariah,
ask Raguel to let me marry my kinswoman Sarah.”

Raguel overheard the words;

so he said to the boy:

“Eat and drink and be merry tonight,

for no man is more entitled to marry my daughter Sarah than you, brother.

Besides, not even I have the right to give her to anyone but you, because you are my closest relative.

But I will explain the situation to you very frankly.

I have given her in marriage to seven men, all of whom were kinsmen of ours, and all died on the very night they approached her.

But now, son, eat and drink.

I am sure the Lord will look after you both.”

Tobiah answered, “I will eat or drink nothing until you set aside what belongs to me.”

Raguel said to him: “I will do it.

She is yours according to the decree of the Book of Moses.

Your marriage to her has been decided in heaven!

Take your kinswoman

from now on you are her love,

and she is your beloved.

She is yours today and ever after.

And tonight, son, may the Lord of heaven prosper you both.

May he grant you mercy and peace.”

Then Raguel called his daughter Sarah, and she came to him.

He took her by the hand and gave her to Tobiah with the words:

“Take her according to the law.

According to the decree written in the Book of Moses she is your wife.
Take her and bring her back safely to your father.
And may the God of heaven grant both of you peace and prosperity.”
He then called her mother and told her to bring a scroll,
So that he might draw up a marriage contract
stating that he gave Sarah to Tobiah as his wife
according to the decree of the Mosaic law.
Her mother brought the scroll,
and he drew up the contract,
to which they affixed their seal.
Afterward they began to eat and drink. *(Pause)*

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS – OPTION 5

A reading from the Book of Tobit *(Pause) Tobit 8:4b-8*

On their wedding night Tobiah arose from bed and said to his wife,
“Sister, get up. Let us pray and beg our Lord
to have mercy on us and to grant us deliverance.”

Sarah got up, and they started to pray and beg that deliverance might be theirs.
They 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.”

They said together, “Amen, amen.” *(Pause)*

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS – OPTION 6

A reading from the Book of Proverbs (*Pause*) *Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31*

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 cloth with skillful hands.
She puts her hands to the distaff,
and her fingers ply 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

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS – OPTION 7

A reading from Song of Songs *(Pause)* *Song of Songs 2:8-10, 14, 16a; 8:6-7a*

Hark! my lover—here he comes
springing across the mountains, leaping across the hills.
My lover is like a gazelle or a young stag.
Here he stands behind our wall,
gazing through the windows,
peering through the lattices.
My lover speaks; he says to me,
“Arise, my beloved, my dove, my beautiful one, and come!
“O my dove in the clefts of the rock,
in the secret recesses of the cliff,
Let me see you, let me hear your voice, for your voice is sweet,
and you are lovely.” My lover belongs to me and I to him.
He says to me:
“Set me as a seal on your heart, as a seal on your arm;
For stern as death is love, relentless as the nether world is devotion;
its flames are a blazing fire.
Deep waters cannot quench love,
nor floods sweep it away.” *(Pause)*

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS – OPTION 8

A reading from the Book of Sirach *(Pause)* Sirach 26:1-4, 13-16

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. *(Pause)*

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS – OPTION 9

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah (*Pause*) *Jeremiah 31:31-32a, 33-34a*

The days are coming, says the Lord,
when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel
and the house of Judah.

It will not be like the covenant I made with their fathers:
the day I took them by the hand
to lead them forth from the land of Egypt.

But this is the covenant which I will make
with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord.

I will place my law within them, and write it upon their hearts;
I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

No longer will they have need to teach their friends and relatives
how to know the Lord.

All, from least to greatest, shall know me, says the Lord. (*Pause*)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God