

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

1- A reading from the book of Genesis 1:26-28,31

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 divine image 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 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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

2- A reading from the book of 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 the 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.

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

3- A reading from the book of Tobit 8:5-7

On the wedding night Sarah got up, and she and Tobiah started to pray and beg that deliverance might be theirs. He 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 creations praise you forever. You made Adam and 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."

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Thanks be to God

4- A reading from the Song of Songs 2:8-10,14,16; 8:6-7

Hark! My lover – here he comes springing across the mountains, leaping 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 lattice. My lover speaks; he says to me; “Arise, my beloved, 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 said 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; it’s flames are blazing fire. Deep waters cannot quench love, nor floods sweep it away.

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

5- A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah 31:31-32, 33-34

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 kinsmen how the Lord. All, from least to greatest, shall know me, says the Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.