

A reading from Paul's letter to the Colossians

You are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved,
Clothe yourselves with heartfelt mercy,
With kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.
Bear grievances you have against one another.
Forgive as the Lord has forgiven you.

Over all these virtues put on love,
Which binds the rest together
and makes them perfect.
Christ's peace must reign in our hearts,
Since as members of the one body
You have been called to that peace.

Let the word of Christ, rich as it is, dwell in you.
Whatever you do, whether in speech or in action,
Do it in the name of the Lord Jesus.
Do it for the Lord,
since you know full well you will receive
an inheritance from him as your reward.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the Book of Proverbs

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, not evil,
All the days of her life.

She reaches out her hands to the poor,
And extends her arms to the needy.
She is clothed with strength and dignity,
And she laughs at the days to come.
She opens her mouth in wisdom,
And on her tongue is kindly counsel.
She watches the conduct of her household,
And eats not her food in idleness.

Her children rise up and praise her;
Her husband, too, extols her,
Many are the women of proven worth
But you have excelled them all;
Charm is deceptive and beauty is fleeting.
The woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.
Give her a reward of her labors,
And let her works praise her.

The Word of the Lord.