

OPTIONS FOR 1st READING AT A WEDDING (FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT)

OT #1

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

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 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 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.

The Word of the Lord...

Thanks be to God.

OT #2

A reading from the Book of Genesis (Gen 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.

The Word of the Lord...

Thanks be to God.

OT #3

A reading from the Book of Tobit (Tob 7:9c-10,11e-13)

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. 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 seals.

The Word of the Lord...

Thanks be to God.

OT #4

A reading from the Book of Tobit (Tob 8:5-7)

On the wedding night Sarah got up, and they 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 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.”

The Word of the Lord...

Thanks be to God.

OT #5

A reading from the Book of Proverbs (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 hand 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.

The Word of the Lord...

Thanks be to God.

OT #6

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

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 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;
its flames are a blazing fire.
Deep waters cannot quench love,
nor floods sweep it away.

The Word of the Lord...

Thanks be to God.

OT #7

A reading from the book of Sirach (Sir 26:1-4,13-16)

Happy 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 person.
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...

Thanks be to God.

THE RESPONSORIAL PSALM

In the order of service, the Responsorial Psalm follows the first reading, and is sung at weddings. For the available options, please consult with the parish music director, Brian Bloye, at bbloye@stalphonsuschicago.com or 773-525-0709 ext.2140

OPTIONS FOR 2nd READING AT A WEDDING **(FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT)**

NT #1

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans (Rom 8:31-35, 37-39)

If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, how will he not also give us everything else along with him? Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones? It is God who acquits us. Who will condemn? It is Christ Jesus who died, rather, was raised, who also is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.

What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword? No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord...

Thanks be to God.

NT #2

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans (Rom 12:1-2, 9-18)

I urge you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship. Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect.

Let love be sincere; hate what is evil, hold on to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; anticipate one another in showing honor. Do not grow slack in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the holy ones, exercise hospitality. Bless those who persecute (you), bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Have the same regard for one another; do not be haughty but associate with the lowly; do not be wise in your own estimation. Do not repay anyone evil for evil; be concerned for what is noble in the sight of all. If possible, on your part, live at peace with all.

The Word of the Lord...

Thanks be to God.

NT #3

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians (1 Cor 12:31 – 13:8a)

Strive eagerly for the greatest spiritual gifts. But I shall show you a still more excellent way.

If I speak in human and angelic tongues but do not have love,

I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal.

And if I have the gift of prophecy and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge;

if I have all faith so as to move mountains but do not have love, I am nothing.

If I give away everything I own,

and if I hand my body over so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, love is not pompous,

it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered,

it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth.

It bears all things, believes all things,

hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails.

The Word of the Lord...

Thanks be to God.

NT #4

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians (Phil 4:4-9)

Brothers and sisters,

Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice!

Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near.

Have no anxiety at all, but in everything,

by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving,

make your requests known to God.

Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding

will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters,

whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just,

whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious,

if there is any excellence

and if there is anything worthy of praise,

think about these things.

Keep on doing what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me.

Then the God of peace will be with you

The Word of the Lord...

Thanks be to God.

NT #5

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians (Col 3:12-17)

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection.

And let the peace of Christ control your hearts,
the peace into which you were also called in one body.

And be thankful.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

And whatever you do, in word or in deed,
do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God the Father through him.

The Word of the Lord...

Thanks be to God.

NT #6

A reading from the first letter of John (1 Jn 3:18-24)

Children, let us love not in word or speech, but in deed and truth.

Now this is how we shall know that we belong to the truth
and reassure our hearts before him in whatever our hearts condemn,
for God is greater than our hearts and knows everything.

Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us,
we have confidence in God

and receive from him whatever we ask,
because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him.

And his commandment is this:

we should believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ,
and love one another just as he commanded us.

Those who keep his commandments remain in him, and he in them,
and the way we know that he remains in us
is from the Spirit that he gave us.

The Word of the Lord...

Thanks be to God.

NT #7

A reading from the first letter of John (1 Jn 4:7-12)

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God;
everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God.
Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love.
In this way the love of God was revealed to us:
God sent his only Son into the world
so that we might have life through him.
In this is love: not that we have loved God,
but that he loved us
and sent his Son as expiation for our sins.
Beloved, if God so loved us,
we also must love one another.
No one has ever seen God.
Yet, if we love one another, God remains in us,
and his love is brought to perfection in us.

The Word of the Lord...

Thanks be to God.

NT #8

A reading from the book of Revelations (Rev 19:1,5-9)

After this I heard what sounded like the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven,
saying: "Alleluia! Salvation, glory, and might belong to our God."
A voice coming from the throne said:
"Praise our God, all you his servants,
and you who revere him, small and great."
Then I heard something like the sound of a great multitude
or the sound of rushing water or mighty peals of thunder, as they said:
"Alleluia! The Lord has established his reign, our God, the almighty.
Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory.
For the wedding day of the Lamb has come,
his bride has made herself ready.
She was allowed to wear a bright, clean linen garment."
(The linen represents the righteous deeds of the holy ones.)
Then the angel said to me, "Write this:
Blessed are those who have been called to the wedding feast of the Lamb."

The Word of the Lord...

Thanks be to God.

OPTIONS FOR THE GOSPEL READING **AT A WEDDING**

Gospel #1

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew (Mt 5:1-12)

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down,
his disciples came to him. He began to teach them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the land.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the clean of heart,
for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you
and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me.
Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.”

The Gospel of the Lord...

Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel #2

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew (Mt 5:13-16)

Jesus said to his disciples: “You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned? It is no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.

The Gospel of the Lord...

Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel #4

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew (Mt 19:3-6)

Some Pharisees approached him, and tested him, saying, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any cause whatever?” He said in reply, “Have you not read that from the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female’ and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, no human being must separate.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel #5

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew (Mt 22:35-40)

One of the Pharisees, a scholar of the law, tested him by asking, “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” He said to him, “You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel #6

A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark (Mk 10:6-9)

Jesus said: “From the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother (and be joined to his wife), and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, no human being must separate.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel #7

A reading from the holy gospel according to John (Jn 2:1-11)

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding. When the wine ran short, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servers, "Do whatever he tells you."

Now there were six stone water jars there for Jewish ceremonial washings, each holding twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus told them, "Fill the jars with water." So they filled them to the brim. Then he told them, "Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter." So they took it. And when the headwaiter tasted the water that had become wine, without knowing where it came from (although the servers who had drawn the water knew), the headwaiter called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves good wine first, and then when people have drunk freely, an inferior one; but you have kept the good wine until now."

Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs in Cana in Galilee and so revealed his glory, and his disciples began to believe in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel #8

A reading from the holy gospel according to John (Jn 15:9-12)

Jesus said to his disciples: "As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love.

"I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete. This is my commandment: love one another as I love you.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel #9

A reading from the holy gospel according to John (Jn 15:12-16)

Jesus said to his disciples: “This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I no longer call you slaves, because a slave does not know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father. It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel #10

A reading from the holy gospel according to John (Jn 17:20-26)

Jesus looked up to heaven and prayed:

“I pray not only for them, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, so that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me.

And I have given them the glory you gave me,

so that they may be one, as we are one – I in them and you in me – that they may be brought to perfection as one, that the world may know that you sent me, and that you loved them even as you loved me.

Father, they are your gift to me.

I wish that where I am they also may be with me, that they may see my glory that you gave me, because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

Righteous Father, the world also does not know you, but I know you, and they know that you sent me.

I made known to them your name and I will make it known, that the love with which you loved me may be in them and I in them.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel #10

OR SHORT FORM: (John 17:20-23)

A reading from the holy gospel according to John (Jn 17:20-23)

Jesus looked up to heaven and prayed:

“I pray not only for them, but also for those who will believe in me through their word,
so that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you,
that they also may be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me.

And I have given them the glory you gave me,

so that they may be one, as we are one – I in them and you in me –
that they may be brought to perfection as one,
that the world may know that you sent me,
and that you loved them even as you loved me.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.