

# Readings for Your Wedding

*For copyright reasons the readings shown here are taken from the Revised Standard Version of the Bible but these are permitted in church*

*The Jerusalem Bible translation is the one more usually used in church*

# Wedding Readings

Taken from the Revised Standard Version of the Bible

## OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

### Genesis 1:26-28, 31

*Theme: Male and female he created them.*

Reader: A reading from the Book of Genesis

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, a sixth day.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

### Genesis 2:18-24

*Theme: They become one flesh.*

Reader: A reading from the Book of Genesis

Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." So out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper fit for him. So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh; and the rib which the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and cleaves to his wife, and they become one flesh.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

### Genesis 24:48-51, 58-67

*Theme: Isaac loved Rebekah, and so he was comforted after his mother's death.*

Reader: A reading from the Book of Genesis

Then I bowed my head and worshiped the Lord, and blessed the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to take the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me; that I may turn to the right hand or to the left." Then Laban and Bethu'el answered, "The thing comes from the Lord; we cannot speak to you bad or good. Behold, Rebekah is before you, take her and go, and let her be the wife of your master's son, as the Lord has spoken." And they called Rebekah, and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" She said, "I will go." So they sent away Rebekah their sister and her nurse, and Abraham's servant and his men. And they blessed Rebekah,

and said to her, "Our sister, be the mother of thousands of ten thousands; and may your descendants possess the gate of those who hate them!" Then Rebekah and her maids arose, and rode upon the camels and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way.

Now Isaac had come from Beer-la'hai-roi, and was dwelling in the Negeb. And Isaac went out to meditate in the field in the evening; and he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, there were camels coming. And Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac, she alighted from the camel, and said to the servant, "Who is the man yonder, walking in the field to meet us?" The servant said, "It is my master." So she took her veil and covered herself. And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. Then Isaac brought her into the tent, and took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord  
People: Thanks be to God

### **Tobit 7:8-15**

*Theme: The merciful God will guide you both.*

Reader: A reading from the Book of Tobit

Then Tobias said to Raphael, "Brother Azarias, speak of those things which you talked about on the journey, and let the matter be settled." So he communicated the proposal to Raguel. And Raguel said to Tobias, "Eat, drink, and be merry; for it is your right to take my child. But let me explain the true situation to you. I have given my daughter to seven husbands, and when each came to her he died in the night. But for the present be merry." And Tobias said, "I will eat nothing here until you make a binding agreement with me." So Raguel said, "Take her right now, in accordance with the law. You are her relative, and she is yours. The merciful God will guide you both for the best." Then he called his daughter Sarah, and taking her by the hand he gave her to Tobias to be his wife, saying, "Here she is; take her according to the law of Moses, and take her with you to your father." And he blessed them. Next he called his wife Edna, and took a scroll and wrote out the contract; and they set their seals to it. Then they began to eat.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord  
People: Thanks be to God

### **Tobit 8:4-8**

*Theme: Grant that I may grow old together with her.*

Reader: A reading from the Book of Tobit

When the door was shut and the two were alone, Tobias got up from the bed and said, "Sister, get up, and let us pray that the Lord may have mercy upon us." And Tobias began to pray, "Blessed art thou, O God of our fathers, and blessed be thy holy and glorious name for ever. Let the heavens and all thy creatures bless thee. Thou madest Adam and gavest him Eve his wife as a helper and support. From them the race of mankind has sprung. Thou didst say, 'It is not good that the man should be alone; let us make a helper for him like himself.' And now, O Lord, I am not taking this sister of mine because of lust, but with sincerity. Grant that I may find mercy and may grow old together with her." And she said with him, "Amen."

### **Song of Solomon 2:8-10, 14, 16; 8:6-7**

*Theme: Love is strong as death.*

Reader: A reading from the Song of Solomon

The voice of my beloved!  
Behold, he comes, leaping upon the mountains,

bounding over the hills.  
My beloved is like a gazelle, or a young stag.  
Behold, there he stands behind our wall,  
gazing in at the windows,  
looking through the lattice.  
My beloved speaks and says to me:  
"Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away;  
O my dove, in the clefts of the rock,  
in the covert of the cliff,  
let me see your face, let me hear your voice,  
for your voice is sweet, and your face is comely.  
My beloved is mine and I am his,  
he pastures his flock among the lilies.  
Until the day breathes.  
Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm;  
for love is strong as death, jealousy is cruel as the grave.  
Its flashes are flashes of fire, a most vehement flame.  
Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it.  
If a man offered for love all the wealth of his house,  
it would be utterly scorned.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord  
People: Thanks be to God

### **Ecclesiasticus 26:1-4, 13-16**

*Theme: Like the sun rising, so is the beauty of a good wife in her well-ordered home.*

Reader: A reading from the Book of Ecclesiasticus

Happy is the husband of a good wife;  
the number of his days will be doubled.  
A loyal wife rejoices her husband,  
and he will complete his years in peace.  
A good wife is a great blessing;  
she will be granted among the blessings of  
the man who fears the Lord.  
Whether rich or poor, his heart is glad,  
and at all times his face is cheerful.  
A wife's charm delights her husband,  
and her skill puts fat on his bones.  
A silent wife is a gift of the Lord,  
and there is nothing so precious as a disciplined soul.  
A modest wife adds charm to charm,  
and no balance can weigh the value of a chaste soul.  
Like the sun rising in the heights of the Lord,  
so is the beauty of a good wife in her well-ordered home.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord  
People: Thanks be to God

## **Jeremiah 31:31-34**

*Theme: I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the House of Judah.*

Reader: A reading from the Prophet Jeremiah

"Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant which I made with their fathers when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant which they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it upon their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each man teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

## **NEW TESTAMENT READINGS**

### **Romans 8:31-35, 37-39**

*Theme: Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?*

Reader: A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Romans

If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, will he not also give us all things with him? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies; who is to condemn? Is it Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised from the dead, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us? Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

### **Romans 12:1-2, 9-18**

*Theme: Present your bodies as a living sacrifice, acceptable to God.*

Reader: A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Romans

I appeal to you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Never flag in zeal, be aglow with the Spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints, practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; never be conceited. Repay no one evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends upon you, live peaceably with all.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

## **1 Corinthians 6:13-15, 17-20**

*Theme: Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit.*

Reader: A reading from the First Letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

The body is not meant for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? But he who is united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Shun immorality. Every other sin which a man commits is outside the body; but the immoral man sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

## **1 Corinthians 12:31-13:8**

*Theme: If I have not love I gain nothing.*

Reader: A reading from the First Letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

Earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way. If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

## **Colossians 3:12-17**

*Theme: Above all put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony*

Reader: A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Colossians

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, and patience, forbearing one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teach and admonish one another in all wisdom, and sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

## **1 Peter 3:1-9**

*Theme: All of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love of the brethren*

Reader: A reading from the First Letter of St Peter

Likewise you wives, be submissive to your husbands, so that some, though they do not obey the word, may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, when they see your reverent and chaste behavior. Let not yours be the outward adorning with braiding of hair, decoration of gold, and wearing of fine clothing, but let it be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable jewel of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious. So once the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves and were submissive to their husbands, as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. And you are now her children if you do right and let nothing terrify you. Likewise you husbands, live considerately with your wives, bestowing honor on the woman as the weaker sex, since you are joint heirs of the grace of life, in order that your prayers may not be hindered. Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love of the brethren, a tender heart and a humble mind. Do not return evil for evil or reviling for reviling; but on the contrary bless, for to this you have been called, that you may obtain a blessing.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

## **1 John 3:18-24**

*Theme: Let us love in deed and in truth*

Little children, let us not love in word or speech but in deed and in truth. By this we shall know that we are of the truth, and reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who keep his commandments abide in him, and he in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit which he has given us.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

## **1 John 4:7-12**

*Theme: God is love.*

Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of God, and he who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God; for God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the expiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No man has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

## **Apocalypse (Revelation) 19:1, 5-9**

*Theme: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.*

After this I heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, crying, "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, And from the throne came a voice crying, "Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, small and great." Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty thunderpeals, crying, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; it was granted her to be clothed with fine linen, bright and pure" - for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb." And he said to me, "These are true words of God."

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord  
People: Thanks be to God

## **RESPONSORIAL PSALMS**

### **Psalm 32**

Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord,  
the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!  
Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who fear him,  
on those who hope in his steadfast love.

*Response: The Lord fills the earth with his love.*

Our soul waits for the Lord;  
he is our help and shield.  
Yea, our heart is glad in him,  
because we trust in his holy name.

Let thy steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us,  
even as we hope in thee.

### **Psalm 33**

I will bless the Lord at all times;  
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.  
My soul makes its boast in the Lord;  
let the afflicted hear and be glad.

*Response: I will bless the Lord at all times.*

O magnify the Lord with me,  
and let us exalt his name together!  
I sought the Lord, and he answered me,  
and delivered me from all my fears.

Look to him, and be radiant;  
so your faces shall never be ashamed.  
This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him,  
and saved him out of all his troubles.

The angel of the Lord encamps  
around those who fear him, and delivers them.  
O taste and see that the Lord is good!  
Happy is the man who takes refuge in him!

### **Psalm 102**

Bless the Lord, O my soul;  
and all that is within me, bless his holy name!  
Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and forget not all his benefits.

*Response: The Lord is compassion and love.*

The Lord is merciful and gracious;  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.  
As a father pities his children,  
so the Lord pities those who fear him.

But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting  
upon those who fear him,  
and his righteousness to children's children, to those who keep his covenant  
and remember to do his commandments.

### **Psalm 111**

Blessed is the man who fears the Lord,  
who greatly delights in his commandments!  
His descendants will be mighty in the land;  
the generation of the upright will be blessed.

*Response: Happy the man who takes delight in the Lord's commands.*

Wealth and riches are in his house;  
and his righteousness endures for ever.  
Light rises in the darkness for the upright;  
the Lord is gracious, merciful, and righteous.

It is well with the man who deals generously and lends,  
who conducts his affairs with justice.  
For the righteous will never be moved;  
he will be remembered for ever.

He is not afraid of evil tidings;  
his heart is firm, trusting in the Lord.  
His heart is steady, he will not be afraid,  
until he sees his desire on his adversaries.

He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor;  
his righteousness endures for ever;  
his horn is exalted in honor.

## **Psalm 127**

Blessed is every one who fears the Lord,  
who walks in his ways!  
You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands;  
you shall be happy, and it shall be well with you.

*Response: O blessed are those who fear the Lord*

Your wife will be like a fruitful vine  
within your house;  
your children will be like olive shoots  
around your table.

Lo, thus shall the man be blessed  
who fears the Lord.  
The Lord bless you from Zion!  
May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life!

## **Psalm 144**

The Lord is gracious and merciful;  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.  
The Lord is good to all,  
and his compassion is over all that he has made.

*Response: How good is the Lord to all.*

All thy works shall give thanks to thee, O Lord,  
and all thy saints shall bless thee!  
The eyes of all look to thee,  
and thou givest them their food in due season.

The Lord is just in all his ways,  
and kind in all his doings.  
The Lord is near to all who call upon him,  
to all who call upon him in truth.

## **Psalm 148**

Praise the Lord from the heavens,  
praise him in the heights!  
Praise him, all his angels,  
praise him, all his host!

*Response: Let them praise the name of the Lord*

Praise him, sun and moon,  
praise him, all you shining stars!  
Praise him, you highest heavens,  
and you waters above the heavens!

Mountains and all hills,  
fruit trees and all cedars!  
Beasts and all cattle,  
creeping things and flying birds!

Kings of the earth and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers of the earth!  
Young men and maidens together,  
old men and children!

Let them praise the name of the Lord,  
for his name alone is exalted;  
his glory is above earth and heaven.

## ALLELUIA VERSES

Alleluia, Alleluia!  
God is love; let us love one another  
as God has loved us.  
Alleluia!

Alleluia, Alleluia!  
Anyone who lives in love  
lives in God and God lives in him,  
Alleluia!

Alleluia, Alleluia!  
As long as we love one another,  
God will live in us and his love will be complete in us.  
Alleluia!

Alleluia, Alleluia!  
Everyone who loves is begotten by God  
and knows God.  
Alleluia!

## GOSPEL READINGS

### **Matthew 5:1-12**

*Theme: Rejoice and be glad for your reward is great in heaven.*

Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

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

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven.

### **Matthew 5:13-16**

*Theme: You are the light of the world.*

Jesus said to his disciples: "You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trodden under foot by men. "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

## **Matthew 7:21, 24-29**

*Theme: He built his house on the rock.*

Jesus said to his disciples: "Not every one who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven." Every one then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house upon the rock; and the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat upon that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And every one who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house upon the sand; and the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell; and great was the fall of it." And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.

## **Matthew 19: 3-6**

*Theme: What God has joined together, let no man put asunder.*

And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, "Is it lawful to divorce one's wife for any cause?" He answered, "Have you not read that he who made them from the beginning 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. What therefore God has joined together, let not man put asunder."

## **Matthew 22: 35-40**

*Theme: This is the greatest and first commandment, and a second is like it.*

A lawyer, asked him a question, to test him. "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets."

## **Mark 10: 6-9**

*Theme: They are no longer two but one.*

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. What therefore God has joined together, let not man put asunder."

## **John 2: 1-11**

*Theme: This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee*

On the third day there was a marriage at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there; Jesus also was invited to the marriage, with his disciples. When the wine failed, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "O woman, what have you to do with me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Now six stone jars were standing there, for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the steward of the feast." So they took it. When the steward of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward of the feast called the bridegroom and said to him, "Every man serves the good wine first; and when men have drunk freely, then the poor wine; but you have kept the good wine until now." This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

## **John 15: 9-12**

*Theme: Abide in my love.*

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

## **John 15: 12-16**

*Theme: This is my commandment, that you love one another.*

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide; so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.

## **John 17: 20-26**

*Theme: That they may become one flesh.*

Jesus raised up his eyes to heaven and said: "I do not pray for these only, but also for those who believe in me through their word, that they may all be one; even as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. The glory which thou hast given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and thou in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that thou hast sent me and hast loved them even as thou hast loved me. Father, I desire that they also, whom thou hast given me, may be with me where I am, to behold my glory which thou hast given me in thy love for me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father, the world has not known thee, but I have known thee; and these know that thou hast sent me. I made known to them thy name, and I will make it known, that the love with which thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them."