

## First Reading – Choose A, B, C, or D

### First Reading A

*Genesis 1:26-28, 31a*

A reading from the Book of Genesis

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.

The word of the Lord.

### First Reading C

*Song of Songs 2:8-10,14,16a; 8:6-7*

A reading from the Song of Songs

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 blazing fire.

Deep waters cannot quench love,  
Nor floods sweep it away.”

The word of the Lord.

### First Reading B

*Sirach 26: 1-4, 13-16*

A reading from the Book of Sirach

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.

The word of the Lord.

### First Reading D

*Tobit 8:4b-8*

A reading from the Book of Tobit

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.”

The word of the Lord.