

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

*Sirach 26:1-4, 13-16 (Vg. 26:1-4, 16-21)*

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.

*Response:* Thanks be to God.