

Suggested Readings for Weddings

Every Wedding should have at least two readings

One Must be a Gospel Reading

Old Testament and New Testament Readings

Genesis 1.27–28,31a (God created man in his own image; in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them)

Tobit 8.5b–8 (Not . . . because of lust, but with sincerity)

Excerpts from Proverbs 31

Excerpts from the Song of Songs 2: 8-10

Jeremiah 31 (A New Covenant)

Romans 8: 31-39 (If God is for us..we have everything!)

Romans 12.1–2,9–13 (Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good)

1 Corinthians 13 (So faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love)

Ephesians 3.14–19 (To comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ)

Phillipians 4: 4-9 (The God of peace will be with you)

Phillipians 2: 2-11 (The Mind of Christ)

Colossians 3.12–17 (Put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony)

Hebrews 13: 1-6 (Let Marriage be Honoured)

1 John 3: 18 -24 (Love in Deed and in Truth)

1 John 4.7–12 (If we love one another, God abides in us)

Responsive Psalms

67 (May God be merciful to us and bless us)

112.1–6 (Happy are they who fear the Lord *or* Hallelujah!)

148.1–6 (Hallelujah!)

150 (Hallelujah!)

Gospel Readings

Matthew 5.1–10 (Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied)

Matthew 5: 13-16 (You are the Light of the World)

Matthew 22.35–40 (You shall love the Lord your God . . . You shall love your neighbour as yourself)

Mark 10.6–9 (The two shall become one flesh)

John 2.1–11 (On the third day there was a marriage at Cana in Galilee)

John 15.9–12 (This is my commandment, that you love one another)

John 17: 20 – 26 (They may be brought to perfection)

A Reading From Genesis

And God created Man and Woman in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

And God blessed them: and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the heavens, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

And God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, it was very good.

The Word of The Lord

A Reading From 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 say together, "Amen, amen."

The Word of the Lord

A Reading From 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, and not evil,
all the days of her live.
She obtains wool and flax
and makes cloth with skillful hands.
She puts her hands to the distaff,
and her fingers ply the spindle.
She reaches out her hand 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

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 a blazing fire.
Deep waters cannot quench love,
nor floods sweep it away."

The Word of the Lord

A Reading From Jeremiah

The days are coming, says the LORD,
when I will make a new covenant with the house
of Israel
and the house of Judah.

It will not be like the covenant I made with their fathers:
the day I took them by the hand
to lead them forth from the land of Egypt.

But this is the covenant which I will make
with the house of Israel after those days,
says the LORD.

I will place my law within them, and write it upon
their hearts;

I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

No longer will they have need to teach their friends
and relatives

how to know the LORD.

All, from least to greatest, shall know me, says the LORD

The Word of the Lord

Responsive Psalms.

The reader reads to the asterisk, the Congregation responds with the following line.

You can have a Psalm as a reading as well.

If so, the Psalm is introduced in the same way as a regular Old or New Testament reading.

Psalm 67 On Page 788 of the B.A.S.

May God be merciful to us and bless us, *
show us the light of his countenance and come to us.

2 Let your ways be known upon earth, *
your saving health among all nations.

3 Let the peoples praise you, O God; *
let all the peoples praise you.

4 Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, *
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide all the nations upon earth.

5 Let the peoples praise you, O God; *
let all the peoples praise you.

6 The earth has brought forth her increase;
may God, our own God, give us his blessing.

7 May God give us his blessing, *
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of him.

Prayer Together

Blessed are you, Lord our God, light of the earth and health of
the nations; you lead us in the way of justice and mercy,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Psalm 112 – 1-6 Found on Page 860 of the B.A.S.

1 Hallelujah!

Happy are they who fear the Lord *

and have great delight in his commandments!

2 Their descendants will be mighty in the land; *

the generation of the upright will be blessed.

3 Wealth and riches will be in their house, *

and their righteousness will last for ever.

4 Light shines in the darkness for the upright; *

the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.

5 It is good for them to be generous in lending *

and to manage their affairs with justice.

6 For they will never be shaken; *

the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.

Prayer Together

God of light, teach us to love each other as you love us, that we may bring peace and joy to the world, and rejoice in the kingdom of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Psalm 148 1-6 found on Page 907 of the B.A.S.

Hallelujah!

Praise the Lord from the heavens; *
praise him in the heights.

2 Praise him, all you angels of his; *
praise him, all his host.

3 Praise him, sun and moon; *
praise him, all you shining stars.

4 Praise him, heaven of heavens, *
and you waters above the heavens.

5 Let them praise the name of the Lord; *
for he commanded, and they were created.

6 He made them stand fast for ever and ever; *
he gave them a law which shall not pass away.

Prayer Together:

Blessed are you, Lord our God, creator of heaven and earth;
you open our eyes to see the wonders around us, and our
hearts and mouths to praise you. Now give us strength for
loving service, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Psalm 150 found on page of the B.A.S.

Hallelujah!

Praise God in his holy temple; *

praise him in the firmament of his power.

2 Praise him for his mighty acts; *

praise him for his excellent greatness.

3 Praise him with the blast of the ram's-horn; *

praise him with lyre and harp.

4 Praise him with timbrel and dance; *

praise him with strings and pipe.

5 Praise him with resounding cymbals; *

praise him with loud-clanging cymbals.

6 Let everything that has breath *

praise the Lord.

Hallelujah!

Prayer Together

Maker of the universe, Source of all life, give us grace to serve you with our whole heart, that we may faithfully perform your will and joyfully participate in your creation, to the praise and glory of your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

A Reading From Romans

So then, my friends, because of God's great mercy to us I appeal to you: Offer yourselves as a living sacrifice to God, dedicated to his service and pleasing to him. This is the true worship that you should offer.

Do not conform yourselves to the standards of this world, but let God transform you inwardly by a complete change of your mind. Then you will be able to know the will of God---what is good and is pleasing to him and is perfect.

And because of God's gracious gift to me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you should. Instead, be modest in your thinking, and judge yourself according to the amount of faith that God has given you.

We have many parts in the one body, and all these parts have different functions.

In the same way, though we are many, we are one body in union with Christ, and we are all joined to each other as different parts of one body.

So we are to use our different gifts in accordance with the grace that God has given us. If our gift is to speak God's message, we should do it according to the faith that we have;

if it is to serve, we should serve; if it is to teach, we should teach;

if it is to encourage others, we should do so. Whoever shares with others should do it generously; whoever has authority should work hard; whoever shows kindness to others should do it cheerfully.

Love must be completely sincere. Hate what is evil, hold on to what is good.

Love one another warmly as Christians, and be eager to show respect for one another.

Work hard and do not be lazy. Serve the Lord with a heart full of devotion.

Let your hope keep you joyful, be patient in your troubles, and pray at all times.

Share your belongings with your needy fellow Christians, and open your homes to strangers.

Ask God to bless those who persecute you---yes, ask him to bless, not to curse.

Be happy with those who are happy, weep with those who weep.

Have the same concern for everyone. Do not be proud, but accept humble duties. Do not think of yourselves as wise.

If someone has done you wrong, do not repay him with a wrong. Try to do what everyone considers to be good.

Do everything possible on your part to live in peace with everybody.

The Word of the Lord

A Reading From Romans

Brothers and Sisters:

If God is for us, who can be against us?

He did not spare his own Son
but handed him over for of us all,
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

A Reading from First Corinthians

I may be able to speak the languages of human beings and even of angels, but if

I have no love, my speech is no more than a noisy gong or a clanging bell.

I may have the gift of inspired preaching; I may have all knowledge and understand all secrets; I may have all the faith needed to move mountains--- but if I have no love, I am nothing.

I may give away everything I have, and even give up my body to be burned --- but if I have no love, this does me no good.

Love is patient and kind; it is not jealous or conceited or proud;

love is not ill-mannered or selfish or irritable; love does not keep a record of wrongs;

love is not happy with evil, but is happy with the truth.

Love never gives up; and its faith, hope, and patience never fail.

Love is eternal. There are inspired messages, but they are temporary; there are gifts of speaking in strange tongues, but they will cease; there is knowledge, but it will pass.

For our gifts of knowledge and of inspired messages are only partial; but when what is perfect comes, then what is partial will disappear.

When I was a child, my speech, feelings, and thinking were all those of a child; now that I am an adult, I have no more use for childish ways.

What we see now is like a dim image in a mirror; then we shall see face-to-face.

What I know now is only partial; then it will be complete---as complete as God's knowledge of me.

Meanwhile these three remain: faith, hope, and love; and the greatest of these is love.

The Word of the Lord

A Reading From Ephesians

In union with Christ and through our faith in him we have the boldness to go into God's presence with all confidence.

I beg you, then, not to be discouraged because I am suffering for you; it is all for your benefit.

For this reason I fall on my knees before the Father,
from whom every family in heaven and on earth receives its true name.

I ask God from the wealth of his glory to give you power through his Spirit to be strong in your inner selves,

and I pray that Christ will make his home in your hearts through faith. I pray that you may have your roots and foundation in love,

so that you, together with all God's people, may have the power to understand how broad and long, how high and deep, is Christ's love.

Yes, may you come to know his love---although it can never be fully known---and so be completely filled with the very nature of God.

Glory to God, whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.

Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord

A Reading From the Letter to the Phillipians

Make my joy complete by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in harmony and of one mind;

Doing nothing through envy or through pride, but with low thoughts of self let everyone take others to be better than himself;

Not looking everyone to his private good, but keeping in mind the things of others.

Let this mind be in you which was in Christ Jesus,

To whom, though himself in the form of God, it did not seem that to take for oneself was to be like God;

But he made himself as nothing, taking the form of a servant, being made like men;

And being seen in form as a man, he took the lowest place, and let himself be put to death, even the death of the cross.

For this reason God has put him in the highest place and has given to him the name which is greater than every name;

So that at the name of Jesus every knee may be bent, of those in heaven and those on earth and those in the underworld,

And that every tongue may give witness that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The Word of the Lord

A Reading From the Letter to the Phillipians

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

A Reading From Hebrews

Brothers and sisters:

Let mutual love continue.

Do not neglect hospitality,
for through it some have unknowingly
entertained angels.

Be mindful of prisoners as if sharing their imprisonment,
and of the ill-treated as of yourselves,
for you also are in the body.

Let marriage be honored among all
and the marriage bed be kept undefiled,

Let your life be free from love of money
but be content with what you have,
for he has said, *I will never forsake you or abandon you.*

Thus we may say with confidence:

*The Lord is my helper,
and I will not be afraid.*

The Word of the Lord

A Reding from Colossians

You have been raised to life with Christ, so set your hearts on the things that are in heaven, where Christ sits on his throne at the right side of God.

Keep your minds fixed on things there, not on things here on earth.

For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

Your real life is Christ and when he appears, then you too will appear with him and share his glory!

You must put to death, then, the earthly desires at work in you, such as sexual immorality, indecency, lust, evil passions, and greed (for greed is a form of idolatry).

Because of such things God's anger will come upon those who do not obey him.

At one time you yourselves used to live according to such desires, when your life was dominated by them.

But now you must get rid of all these things: anger, passion, and hateful feelings. No insults or obscene talk must ever come from your lips.

Do not lie to one another, for you have put off the old self with its habits and have put on the new self. This is the new being which God, its Creator, is constantly renewing in his own image, in order to bring you to a full knowledge of himself.

As a result, there is no longer any distinction between Gentiles and Jews, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarians, savages, slaves, and free, but Christ is all, Christ is in all.

You are the people of God; he loved you and chose you for his own. So then, you must clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.

Be tolerant with one another and forgive one another whenever any of you has a complaint against someone else. You must forgive one another just as the Lord has forgiven you.

And to all these qualities add love, which binds all things together in perfect unity.

The peace that Christ gives is to guide you in the decisions you make; for it is to this peace that God has called you together in the one body. And be thankful.

Christ's message in all its richness must live in your hearts. Teach and instruct one another with all wisdom. Sing psalms, hymns, and sacred songs; sing to God with thanksgiving in your hearts.

Everything you do or say, then, should be done in the name of the Lord Jesus, as you give thanks through him to God the Father.

The Word of the Lord

A Reading From First John

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 your 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

A Reading From First John

Dear friends, let us love one another, because love comes from God. Whoever loves is a child of God and knows God.

Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.

And God showed his love for us by sending his only Son into the world, so that we might have life through him.

This is what love is: it is not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the means by which our sins are forgiven.

Dear friends, if this is how God loved us, then we should love one another.

No one has ever seen God, but if we love one another, God lives in union with us, and his love is made perfect in us.

We are sure that we live in union with God and that he lives in union with us, because he has given us his Spirit.

And we have seen and tell others that the Father sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.

If we declare that Jesus is the Son of God, we live in union with God and God lives in union with us.

And we ourselves know and believe the love which God has for us. God is love, and those who live in love live in union with God and God lives in union with them.

The Word of the Lord

GOSPEL READINGS

All stand for the Gospel.

Reader The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Matthew

People **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on the side of a mountain and sat down. Jesus' disciples gathered around him, and he taught them:

God blesses those people who depend only on him. They belong to the kingdom of heaven!

God blesses those people who grieve. They will find comfort!

God blesses those people who are humble. The earth will belong to them!

God blesses those people who want to obey him more than to eat or drink. They will be given what they want!

God blesses those people who are merciful. They will be treated with mercy!

God blesses those people whose hearts are pure. They will see him!

God blesses those people who make peace. They will be called his children!

God blesses those people who are treated badly for doing right. They belong to the kingdom of heaven.

At the conclusion of the Gospel, the reader says,

The Gospel of Christ.

People **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

All stand for the Gospel.

Reader The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Matthew

People **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Jesus said to his disciples:

"You are the salt of the earth.

But what 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 lamp stand,

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."

At the conclusion of the Gospel, the reader says,

The Gospel of Christ.

People **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

All stand for the Gospel.

Reader The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Matthew

People **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

A teacher of the Law, tried to trap Jesus with a question.

"Teacher," he asked, "which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

Jesus answered, " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.'

This is the greatest and the most important commandment.

The second most important commandment is like it: 'Love your neighbor as you love yourself.'

The whole Law of Moses and the teachings of the prophets depend on these two commandments."

At the conclusion of the Gospel, the reader says,

The Gospel of Christ.

People **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

All stand for the Gospel.

Reader The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Mark

People **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

In the beginning God made a man and a woman.

That's why a man leaves his father and mother and gets married.

He becomes like one person with his wife. Then they are no longer two people,
but one.

Let no one separate a couple that God has joined together."

At the conclusion of the Gospel, the reader says,

The Gospel of Christ.

People **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

All stand for the Gospel.

Reader The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

People **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Three days later after Jesus arrived in Galilee, Mary, the mother of Jesus, was at a wedding feast in the village of Cana in Galilee.

Jesus and his disciples had also been invited and were there.

When the wine was all gone, Mary said to Jesus, "They don't have any more wine."

Jesus replied, "Mother, my time hasn't yet come! You must not tell me what to do."

Mary then said to the servants, "Do whatever Jesus tells you to do."

At the feast there were six stone water jars that were used by the people for washing themselves in the way that their religion said they must. Each jar held about twenty or thirty gallons.

Jesus told the servants to fill them to the top with water. Then after the jars had been filled,

he said, "Now take some water and give it to the man in charge of the feast."

The servants did as Jesus told them, and the man in charge drank some of the water that had now turned into wine.

He did not know where the wine had come from, but the servants did. He called the bridegroom over

and said, "The best wine is always served first. Then after the guests have had plenty, the other wine is served. But you have kept the best until last!"

This was Jesus' first miracle, and he did it in the village of Cana in Galilee. There Jesus showed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him.

At the conclusion of the Gospel, the reader says,

The Gospel of Christ.

People **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

All stand for the Gospel.

Reader The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to John

People **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Stay joined to me, and I will stay joined to you. Just as a branch cannot produce fruit unless it stays joined to the vine, you cannot produce fruit unless you stay joined to me.

I am the vine, and you are the branches. If you stay joined to me, and I stay joined to you, then you will produce lots of fruit. But you cannot do anything without me.

If you don't stay joined to me, you will be thrown away. You will be like dry branches that are gathered up and burned in a fire.

Stay joined to me and let my teachings become part of you. Then you can pray for whatever you want, and your prayer will be answered.

When you become fruitful disciples of mine, my Father will be honored.

I have loved you, just as my Father has loved me. So remain faithful to my love for you.

If you obey me, I will keep loving you, just as my Father keeps loving me, because I have obeyed him.

I have told you this to make you as completely happy as I am.

Now I tell you to love each other, as I have loved you.

At the conclusion of the Gospel, the reader says,

The Gospel of Christ.

People **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

All stand for the Gospel.

Reader The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to John

People **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said:

"I pray not only for my disciples,
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."

At the conclusion of the Gospel, the reader says,

The Gospel of Christ.

People **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**