

## **A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus (26:1-4,13-16)**

Happy the husband of a really good wife  
The number of his days will be doubled.  
A perfect wife is the joy of her husband,  
He will live out the years of his life in peace.  
A good wife is the best of portions,  
Reserved for those who fear the Lord;  
Rich or poor, they will be glad of heart,  
Cheerful of face, whatever the season.  
The grace of a wife will charm her husband,  
Her accomplishment will make him the stronger.  
A silent wife is a gift from the Lord,  
No price can be put on a well trained character.  
A modest wife is a boon twice over,  
A chaste character cannot be weighted on scales.  
Like the sun rising over the mountains of the Lord  
Is the beauty of a good wife in a well kept house.

The word of the Lord.