

What God has united, man must not separate.

† **A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**

Some Pharisees approached Jesus,
and tested him, saying,
“Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife
for any cause whatever?”

He said in reply,
“Have you not read that from the beginning
the Creator 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.
Therefore, what God has joined together,
man must not separate.”

The Gospel of the Lord.