

*The woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.*

### **A reading from the Book of 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 life.

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 hands 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.