

*A worthy wife, her value is far beyond pearls.*

### **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 is clothed with strength and dignity,  
and she laughs at the days to come.  
She opens her mouth in wisdom,  
and on her tongue is kindly counsel.

Her children rise up and praise her;  
her husband, too, extols her:  
“Many are the women of proven worth,  
but you have excelled them all.”  
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.*