

PICKING BIBLE READINGS FOR YOUR WEDDING

The wedding ritual includes readings from the Bible. As a couple preparing for marriage, you have the opportunity to participate in the selection of these readings. The Church has already combed through the Scriptures, looking for passages that have a vital connection to the reality of marriage. It is now your task to look over these readings, to discuss them as a couple, and to choose those passages that speak to your hearts.

Because your wedding is scheduled for the Easter season (the seven weeks following Easter itself), the first reading is already pre-determined. It is taken from the Book of Revelation, and speaks of the great "wedding feast" at the end of time. It includes an accompanying psalm. This reading is colour-coded in orange.

The second of these readings is taken from the New Testament. These can be found in the yellow colour-coded pages. You choose one reading.

The last of these readings is taken from the Gospels. These can be found in the green colour-coded sheets. You choose one reading.

Please read over the readings (and their psalms, where indicated) and indicate your choices to your pastor, who will likely want to discuss them with you.

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Revelation.

After this I heard what seemed to be the loud voice
of a great multitude in heaven, saying,
"Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power to our God!"
And from the throne came a voice saying,
"Praise our God, all you his servants,
and all who fear him, small and great."
Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude,
like the sound of many waters
and like the sound of mighty thunderpeals, crying out,
"Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns.
Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory,
for the marriage of the Lamb has come,
and his bride has made herself ready;
to her it has been granted to be clothed with fine linen, bright and pure"
- for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.
And the angel said to me,
"Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb."

The Word of the Lord.

(Psalm to accompany the First Reading)

Response: Let them praise the name of the Lord.

Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise him in the heights!
Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his host! **R.**

Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all you shining stars!
Praise him, you highest heavens,
and you waters above the heavens! **R.**

Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars!
Wild animals and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds! **R.**

Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!
Young men and women alike,
old and young together! **R.**

Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for his name alone is exalted;
his glory is above earth and heaven. **R.**

CHOICE #1

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

If God is for us, who is against us?
He who did not withhold his own Son,
but gave him up for all of us,
will he not with him also give us everything else?
Who will bring any charge against God's elect?
It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn?
It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised,
who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.
Who will separate us from the love of Christ?
Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine,
or nakedness, or peril, or sword?
No, in all these things we are more than conquerors
through him who loved us.
For I am convinced that neither death, nor life,
nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

CHOICE #2

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God - what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour.

Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord.

Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.

Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.

Live in harmony with one another;

do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly;

do not claim to be wiser than you are.

Do not repay anyone evil for evil,

but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all.

If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

The Word of the Lord.

CHOICE #3

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians

The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord,
and the Lord for the body.

And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power.

Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ?

But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him.

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you,
which you have from God, and that you are not your own?

For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

The Word of the Lord.

CHOICE #4

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians

Strive for the greater gifts.
And I will show you a still more excellent way.

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels,
but do not have love,
I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.
And if I have prophetic powers,
and understand all mysteries and all knowledge,
and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains,
but do not have love, I am nothing.
If I give away all my possessions,
and if I hand over my body so that I may boast,
but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient;
love is kind;
love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude.
It does not insist on its own way;
it is not irritable or resentful;
it does not rejoice in wrongdoing,
but rejoices in the truth.
It bears all things, believes all things,
hopes all things, endures all things.
Love never ends.

The Word of the Lord.

CHOICE #5

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians

Live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us.

Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Wives, be subject to your husbands as you are to the Lord.

For the husband is the head of the wife just as Christ is the head of the church, the body of which he is the Saviour.

Just as the church is subject to Christ,

so also wives ought to be, in everything, to their husbands.

Husbands, love your wives,

just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,

in order to make her holy by cleansing her with the washing of water by the word,

so as to present the church to himself in splendour,

without a spot or wrinkle or anything of the kind -

yes, so that she may be holy and without blemish.

In the same way, husbands should love their wives as they do their own bodies.

He who loves his wife loves himself.

For no one ever hates his own body,

but he nourishes and tenderly cares for it,

just as Christ does for the church, because we are members of his body.

"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh."

This is a great mystery, and I am applying it to Christ and the church.

Each of you, however, should love his wife as himself,

and a wife should respect her husband.

The Word of the Lord.

CHOICE #6

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved,
clothe yourselves with compassion,
kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.
Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another,
forgive each other;
just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.
Above all, clothe yourselves with love,
which binds everything together in perfect harmony.
And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,
to which indeed you were called in the one body.
And be thankful.
Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly;
teach and admonish one another in all wisdom;
and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.
And whatever you do, in word or deed,
do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God the Father through him.

The Word of the Lord.

CHOICE #7

A reading from the first letter of Peter

Wives, in the same way, accept the authority of your husbands, so that, even if some of them do not obey the word, they may be won over without a word by their wives' conduct, when they see the purity and reverence of your lives.

Do not adorn yourselves outwardly by braiding your hair, and by wearing gold ornaments or fine clothing; rather, let your adornment be the inner self with the lasting beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in God's sight.

It was in this way long ago that the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves by accepting the authority of their husbands.

Thus Sarah obeyed Abraham and called him lord.

You have become her daughters as long as you do what is good and never let fears alarm you.

Husbands, in the same way, show consideration for your wives in your life together, paying honor to the woman as the weaker sex, since they too are also heirs of the gracious gift of life - so that nothing may hinder your prayers.

Finally, all of you have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind.

Do not repay evil for evil or abuse for abuse; but, on the contrary, repay with a blessing.

It is for this that you were called - that you might inherit a blessing.

The Word of the Lord.

CHOICE #8

A reading from the first letter of John

Little children, let us love,
not in word or speech,
but in truth and action.

And by this we will know that we are from the truth
and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us;
for God is greater than our hearts,
and he knows everything.

Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us,
we have boldness before God;
and we receive from him whatever we ask,
because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment,
that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ
and love one another, just as he has commanded us.

All who obey his commandments abide in him,
and he abides in them.

And by this we know that he abides in us,
by the Spirit that he has given us.

The Word of the Lord.

CHOICE #9

A reading from the first letter of John

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God;
everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

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

God's love was revealed among us in this way:

God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him.

In this is love,

not that we loved God but that he loved us

and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

Beloved, since God loved us so much,

we also ought to love one another.

No one has ever seen God;

if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us,

because he has given us of his Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.

CHOICE #1

Alleluia. God is love; let us love one another as he has loved us. Alleluia.

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain;
and after he sat down, his disciples came to him.

Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

“Blessed are the merciful,
for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people revile you
and persecute you
and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.
Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven.

The Gospel of the Lord.

CHOICE #2

Alleluia. If we love one another, God will live in us in perfect love. Alleluia.

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

"You are the salt of the earth;
but if salt has lost its taste,
how can its saltiness be restored?
It is no longer good for anything,
but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

"You are the light of the world.
A city built on a hill cannot be hid.
No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket,
but on the lampstand,
and it gives light to all in the house.
In the same way, let your light shine before others,
so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."

The Gospel of the Lord.

CHOICE #3

Alleluia. All who live in love, live in God, and God in them. Alleluia.

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven.

"Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock.

The rain fell, the floods came,
and the winds blew and beat on that house,
but it did not fall,

because it had been founded on rock.

And everyone who hears these words of mine
and does not act on them

will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand.

The rain fell, and the floods came,
and the winds blew and beat against that house,
and it fell - and great was its fall!"

Now when Jesus had finished saying these things,
the crowds were astounded at his teaching,
for he taught them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.

The Gospel of the Lord.

CHOICE #4

Alleluia. Everyone who loves is born of God and know him. Alleluia.

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

Some Pharisees came to him, and to test him they asked,
"Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any cause?"

He answered,

"Have you not read that the one who made them at the beginning
"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, let no one separate."

The Gospel of the Lord.

CHOICE #5

Alleluia. God is love; let us love one another as he has loved us. Alleluia.

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him.

"Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?"

He said to him,

" 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.'

This is the greatest and first commandment.

And a second is like it:

"You shall love your neighbour as yourself.'

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

The Gospel of the Lord.

CHOICE #6

Alleluia. Everyone who loves is born of God and know him. Alleluia.

A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark

Jesus said:

"From the beginning of creation, "God made them male and female.'

"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, let no one separate."

The Gospel of the Lord.

CHOICE #7

Alleluia. If we love one another, God will live in us in perfect love. Alleluia.

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

There was a wedding in Cana of Galilee,
and the mother of Jesus was there.

Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding.

When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine."

And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me?"

My hour has not yet come."

His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification,
each holding twenty or thirty gallons.

Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water."

And they filled them up to the brim.

He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward."

So they took it.

When the steward tasted the water that had become wine,
and did not know where it came from

(though the servants who had drawn the water knew),

the steward called the bridegroom and said to him,

"Everyone serves the good wine first,

and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk.

But you have kept the good wine until now."

Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee,

and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

CHOICE #8

Alleluia. Whoever lives in love, lives in God, and God in him. Alleluia.

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples:

"As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you;
abide in my love.

If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love,
just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.

I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you,
and that your joy may be complete.

"This is my commandment,
that you love one another as I have loved you."

The Gospel of the Lord.

CHOICE #9

Alleluia. God is love; let us love one another as he has loved us. Alleluia.

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples:

"This is my commandment,

that you love one another as I have loved you.

No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.

You are my friends if you do what I command you.

I do not call you servants any longer,

because the servant does not know what the master is doing;

but I have called you friends,

because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father.

You did not choose me but I chose you.

And I appointed you to go and bear fruit,

fruit that will last,

so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name.

The Gospel of the Lord.

CHOICE #10

Alleluia. If we love one another God will live in us in perfect love. Alleluia.

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

When the hour came for him to pass from this world to the Father, Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and prayed, saying:

"I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one.

As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one,

I in them and you in me,

that they may become completely one,

so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

"Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me.

I made your name known to them, and I will make it known,

so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

The Gospel of the Lord.

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