

# Suggested Scripture readings for Weddings

*Most wedding ceremonies include:*

- A. One reading from Scripture from the Old Testament or the new Testament PLUS*
- B. One Psalm that is sung by a soloist and chosen by you and our Music Director PLUS*
- C. An optional 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading - If you choose to have 2 Scripture readings the first is usually from the Old Testament and the second is from the New Testament).*
- D. Then comes the Gospel reading - usually chosen by the priest*

*You are not bound to these specific Scripture readings, any Scripture readings are fine. You can even take only a section of these readings. It is up to you. Let us know if you need help in this area.*

## Old Testament Readings

### 1. Genesis (1. 26-28, 31a)

Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

*(this reading can continue or can start from the next line)*

So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth."

God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.

### 2. Genesis (2. 18-24)

Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name.

The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner.

So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh.

And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.

Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken." Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

### 3. Ruth 1:16-17

Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you.

For where you go

I will go,

and where you lodge

I will lodge.

Your people shall be my people, and your God my God.

## 4. Tobit (8. 5-7a)

*(background)*

*God had heard the prayers of Tobias and Sarah. In his kindness, God had sent his messenger Raphael to bring them together in marriage, and to free Sarah from the difficulties that had so long tried her patience and trust. On their wedding night, Tobias and Sarah sought God's continuing favour and protection; together, they praised God.*

The reading begins below...Tobit (8. 5-7a)

Tobias and Sarah began to pray and implore that they might be kept safe.

Tobias began by saying,  
"Blessed are you, O God of our ancestors,  
and blessed is your name in all generations forever.  
Let the heavens and the whole creation bless you forever.

You made Adam, and for him you made his wife Eve as a helper and support.

From the two of them the human race has sprung.

You said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone; let us make a helper for him like himself.' I

I now am taking this kinswoman of mine,  
not because of lust, but with sincerity.

Grant that she and I may find mercy  
and that we may grow old together."

## 5. Song of Songs 2. 8-10, 14, 16a; 8.

The voice of my beloved!

Look, he comes, leaping upon the mountains,  
bounding over the hills.

My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag. Look,  
there he stands behind our wall, gazing in at the  
windows, looking through the lattice.

My beloved speaks and says to me: "Arise, my love,  
my fair one, and come away; O my dove, in the clefts  
of the rock, in the covert of the cliff, let me see your  
face, let me hear your voice; for your voice is sweet,  
and your face is lovely. My beloved is mine and I am  
his.

Set me as a seal upon your heart,  
as a seal upon your arm;

for love is strong as death, passion fierce as the  
grave. Its flashes are flashes of fire, a raging flame.  
Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods  
drown it.

## New Testament Readings

### 6. Paul's to the Romans

#### ROMANS 8. 31-35, 37-39

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.

### 7. Paul's Letter to the Romans

#### 12:1-2, 9-13

I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of  
God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice,  
holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship.

Do not conform yourselves to this age  
but be transformed by the renewal of your mind,  
that you may discern what is the will of God,  
what is good and pleasing and perfect.

Let love be sincere; hate what is evil,  
hold on to what is good;

love one another with mutual affection;

anticipate one another in showing honor.  
Do not grow slack in zeal,  
be fervent in spirit,  
serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction,  
persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the  
holy ones, exercise hospitality.

## 8. Paul's 1<sup>st</sup> Letter to the Corinthians 12. 31-13. 8

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.

## 9. Paul's Letter to the Colossians 3. 12-17

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.

## 10. Paul's Letter to the Philippians 4:4-9

Brothers and sisters:

Rejoice in the Lord always.

I shall say it again: rejoice!

Your kindness should be known to all.

The Lord is near.

Have no anxiety at all, but in everything,  
by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving,  
make your requests known to God.

Then the peace of God that surpasses all  
understanding

will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters,

whatever is true, whatever is honorable,

whatever is just, whatever is pure,

whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious,

if there is any excellence

and if there is anything worthy of praise,  
think about these things.

Keep on doing what you have learned and received  
and heard and seen in me.

Then the God of peace will be with you.

The word of the Lord.

## 11. Letter to the Hebrews 13:1-4a, 5-6b

Brothers and sisters:

Let mutual love continue.

Do not neglect hospitality,  
for through it some have unknowingly entertained  
angels.

Be mindful of prisoners as if sharing their  
imprisonment,

and of the ill-treated as of yourselves,

for you also are in the body.

Let marriage be honored among all

and the marriage bed be kept undefiled.

Let your life be free from love of money  
but be content with what you have,  
for he has said, I will never forsake you or abandon  
you.

Thus we may say with confidence:

The Lord is my helper,  
and I will not be afraid.

The word of the Lord.

## 12. John's 1<sup>st</sup> Letter

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.