



SUGGESTED WEDDING READINGS AND HYMNS

The Beloved Community of Intercession Episcopal
and Redeemer Lutheran Churches

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APPROVED MUSIC FOR WEDDINGS

PROCESSIONAL/RECESSIONAL MUSIC CHOICES

Air by Bach

Canon in D by Pachelbel

Trumpet Voluntary by Clarke

Trumpet Voluntary by Stanley

Trumpet Voluntary in D Major by Purcell

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring by Bach

Jesus, My Shepherd Walk Beside Us by Bach

Prelude in D by Charpentier

Rondeau by Jean-Joseph Mouret

Water Music Suite by Handel

HYMNS FOR ENTRANCE AND GENERAL USE THROUGH OUT SERVICE *(From the 1982 Hymnal and the Evangelical Lutheran Book of Worship)*

Now thank we all our God

Tune: Nun danket alle Gott

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee

Tune: Hymn to Joy

Give praise and glory unto God

Tune: Du Lebensbrot

All people that on earth do dwell

Tune: Old 100th

Praise to the Lord

Tune: Lobe den Herren

The God of Abraham praise

Tune: Leoni

Praise my soul, the King of Heaven

Tune: Lauda anima

Christ is made the sure foundation

Tune: Westminster Abbey

Love divine, all loves excelling

Tune: Hyfrydol

COMMUNION HYMNS *(From the 1982 Hymnal and the Evangelical Lutheran Book of Worship)*

<i>Amazing Grace</i>	Tune: New Britain
<i>Be thou my vision</i>	Tune: Slane
<i>Humbly I adore thee</i>	Tune: Adoro devote
<i>I was there to hear your Morning Cry</i>	Tune: Waterlife
<i>Jesu, Jesu, Fill us with your Love</i>	Tune: Chereponi
<i>Thou, who at the first Eucharist</i>	Tune: Song 1
<i>This is the hour of banquet</i>	Tune: Canticum refectionis
<i>My God, thy table now is spread</i>	Tune: Rockingham
<i>Let all mortal flesh keep silence</i>	Tune: Picardy
<i>Let us break bread together</i>	Tune: Let Us Break Bread
<i>Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness</i>	Tune: Schmücke dich
<i>Shepherd of souls, refresh and bless</i>	Tune: St. Agnes
<i>Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing</i>	Tune: Sicilian Mariners

Note: These hymns may be sung by the congregation or by a soloist during the Eucharist

APPROVED READINGS FOR WEDDINGS

OLD TESTAMENT LESSONS *(normally, one of these is chosen)*

Genesis 1: 26-28: *Male and female he created them*

Genesis 2: 4-9, 15-24: *A man cleaves to his wife and they become one flesh*

Exodus 40: 34-38: *A sacred journey*

Ruth 1: 16-17: *Ruth's faithfulness to Naomi*

1 Samuel 18: 1b, 3, 20: 16-17, 42a: *Jonathon's covenant with David*

Proverbs 3: 3-6: *Loyalty and faithfulness written on your heart*

Ecclesiastes 4: 9-12: *Two are better than one*

Song of Solomon 2: 10-13; 8: 6-7: *Many waters cannot quench love*

Isaiah 63: 7-9: *Gods steadfast love lifts people up*

Jeremiah 31: 31-34: *The new covenant of the people of God*

Micah 4: 1-4: *The mountain of the Lord's house shall be established*

Tobit 8: 5b-8: *That she and I may grow old together*

PSALMS *(one of these may be chosen, but is not expected or required)*

Psalm 25: 1-9: *All the paths of the Lord are love and faithfulness*

Psalm 26: 1-8: *I have walked faithfully with you*

Psalm 45: 1-4, 9-11, 14-16: *Strap your sword upon your thigh, O mighty warrior*

Psalm 65: *Happy are they whom you choose and draw your courts to dwell there*

Psalm 67: *May God give us his blessing*

Psalm 85: 7-13: *Righteousness and peace have kissed each other*

Psalm 98: *Sing to the Lord a new song*

Psalm 100: *God's faithfulness endures from age to age*

Psalm 117: *The steadfast love of the Lord*

Psalm 121: *The Lord keeps watch over you*

Psalm 126: *The Lord has done great things for them*

Psalm 127: *Children are a heritage from the Lord*

Psalm 128: *Blessed are those who walk in God's ways*

Psalm 133: *How good and pleasant it is, when brethren live together in unity*

Psalm 138: *I will bow down because of your love and faithfulness*

Psalm 148: *He made them stand fast for ever and ever*

Psalm 149: 1-5: *Let them be joyful on their beds*

Psalm 150: 1-5: *Let everything praise God*

NEW TESTAMENT LESSONS *(normally, one of these is chosen)*

Romans 8: 31-35, 37-39: *If God is for us, who is against us*

Romans 12: 9-18: *Let love be genuine*

1 Corinthians 12: 31b-13:13: *Love is patient and kind*

2 Corinthians 5: 17-20: *A new creation*

Galatians 3: 26-28: *You are one in Christ Jesus*

Galatians 5: 14, 22-26: *The fruit of the Spirit*

Ephesians 3: 14-21: *The breadth, length, height, and depth of Christ*

Ephesians 5: 1-2, 21-33: *Walk in love, as Christ loved us*

Colossians 3: 12-17: *Love which binds everything together in harmony*

1 John 3: 18-24: *Our hearts do not condemn us*

1 John 4: 7-16, 21: *Let us love one another for love is of God*

GOSPEL LESSONS *(normally, one of these is chosen)*

Note: If Holy Eucharist is part of the service, this reading is required and is read by clergy

Matthew 5: 1-16: *You are the light . . . Let your light so shine*

Matthew 7: 21, 24-29: *Like a wise man who built his house upon the rock*

Mark 3: 31-35: *Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother*

Mark 10: 6-9, 13-16: *They are no longer two but one*
Mark 12: 28-34: *You are not far from the kingdom of God*
Luke 6: 32-38: *Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful*
John 2: 1-11: *The wedding at Cana*
John 15: 9-17: *Love one another as I have loved you*
John 17: 1-2, 18-26: *Let them be one, as we are one*

OLD TESTAMENT LESSONS *(normally, one of these is chosen)*

Genesis 1: 26-28: *Male and female he created them*

Then God said, "Let us make humanity in our image to resemble us so that they may take charge of the fish of the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the earth, and all the crawling things on earth." God created humanity in God's own image, in the divine image God created them, male and female God created them. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and master it. Take charge of the fish of the sea, the birds in the sky, and everything crawling on the ground."

Genesis 2: 4-9, 15-24: *A man cleaves to his wife and they become one flesh*

This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created. On the day the LORD God made earth and sky— before any wild plants appeared on the earth, and before any field crops grew, because the LORD God hadn't yet sent rain on the earth and there was still no human being to farm the fertile land, though a stream rose from the earth and watered all of the fertile land— the LORD God formed the human from the topsoil of the fertile land and blew life's breath into his nostrils. The human came to life. The LORD God planted a garden in Eden in the east and put there the human he had formed. In the fertile land, the LORD God grew every beautiful tree with edible fruit, and also he grew the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The LORD God took the human and settled him in the garden of Eden to farm it and to take care of it. The LORD God commanded the human, "Eat your fill from all of the garden's trees; but don't eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, because on the day you eat from it, you will die!" Then the LORD God said, "It's not good that the human is alone. I will make him a helper that is perfect for him. So the LORD God formed from the fertile land all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky and brought them to the human to see what he would name them. The human gave each living being its name. The human named all the livestock, all the birds in the sky, and all the wild animals. But a helper perfect for him was nowhere to be found. So the LORD God put the human into a deep and heavy sleep, and took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh over it. With the rib taken from the human, the LORD God fashioned a woman and brought her to the human being. The human said, "This one finally is bone from my bones and flesh from my flesh. She will be called a woman because from a man she was taken. This is the reason that a man leaves his father and mother and embraces his wife, and they become one flesh."

Exodus 40: 34-38: *A sacred journey*

The cloud covered the meeting tent and the LORD's glorious presence filled the dwelling. Moses couldn't enter the meeting tent because the cloud had settled on it, and the LORD's glorious presence filled the dwelling. Whenever the cloud rose from the dwelling, the Israelites would set out on their journeys. But if the cloud didn't rise, then they didn't set out until the day it rose. The LORD's cloud stayed over the dwelling during the day, with lightning in it at night, clearly visible to the whole household of Israel at every stage of their journey.

Ruth 1: 16-17: *Ruth's faithfulness to Naomi*

But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to abandon you, to turn back from following after you. Wherever you go, I will go; and wherever you stay, I will stay. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God. Wherever you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD do this to me and more so if even death separates me from you."

1 Samuel 18: 1b, 3; 20: 16-17, 42a: *Jonathon's covenant with David*

As soon as David had finished talking with Saul, Jonathan's life became bound up with David's life, and Jonathan loved David as much as himself. And Jonathan and David made a covenant together because Jonathan loved David as much as himself. If Jonathan's name is also eliminated, then the LORD will seek retribution from David! Then Jonathan said to David, "Go in peace because the two of us made a solemn pledge in the LORD's name when we said, 'The LORD is witness between us and between our descendants forever.'" Then David got up and left, but Jonathan went back to town.

Proverbs 3: 3-6: *Loyalty and faithfulness written on your heart*

Don't let loyalty and faithfulness leave you. Bind them on your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart. Then you will find favor and approval in the eyes of God and humanity. Trust in the LORD with all your heart; don't rely on your own intelligence. Know him in all your paths, and he will keep your ways straight.

Ecclesiastes 4: 9-12: *Two are better than one*

Two are better than one because they have a good return for their hard work. If either should fall, one can pick up the other. But how miserable are those who fall and don't have a companion to help them up! Also, if two lie down together, they can stay warm. But how can anyone stay warm alone? Also, one can be overpowered, but two together can put up resistance. A three-ply cord doesn't easily snap.

Song of Solomon 2:10-13; 8: 6-7 *Many waters cannot quench love*

My lover spoke and said to me, "Rise up, my dearest, my fairest, and go. Here, the winter is past; the rains have come and gone. Blossoms have appeared in the land; the season of singing has arrived, and the sound of the turtledove is heard in our land. The

green fruit is on the fig tree, and the grapevines in bloom are fragrant. Rise up, my dearest, my fairest, and go. Set me as a seal over your heart, as a seal upon your arm, for love is as strong as death, passionate love unrelenting as the grave. Its darts are darts of fire— divine flame! Rushing waters can't quench love; rivers can't wash it away. If someone gave all his estate in exchange for love, he would be laughed to utter shame.

Isaiah 63: 7-9: *Gods steadfast love lifts people up*

I will recount the LORD's faithful acts; I will sing the LORD's praises, because of all the LORD did for us, for God's great favor toward the house of Israel. God treated them compassionately and with deep affection. God said, "Truly, they are my people, children who won't do what is wrong." God became their savior. During all their distress, God also was distressed, so a messenger who served him saved them. In love and mercy God redeemed them, lifting and carrying them throughout earlier times.

Jeremiah 31: 31-34: The new covenant of the people of God

The time is coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and Judah. It won't be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant with me even though I was their husband, declares the LORD. No, this is the covenant that I will make with the people of Israel after that time, declares the LORD. I will put my Instructions within them and engrave them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. They will no longer need to teach each other to say, "Know the LORD!" because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD; for I will forgive their wrongdoing and never again remember their sins.

Micah 4: 1-4: *The mountain of the Lord's house shall be established*

But in the days to come, the mountain of the LORD's house will be the highest of the mountains; it will be lifted above the hills; peoples will stream to it. Many nations will go and say: "Come, let's go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of Jacob's God, so that he may teach us his ways and we may walk in God's paths!" Instruction will come from Zion and the LORD's word from Jerusalem. God will judge between the nations and settle disputes of mighty nations, which are far away. They will beat their swords into iron plows and their spears into pruning tools. Nation will not take up sword against nation; they will no longer learn how to make war. All will sit underneath their own grapevines, under their own fig trees. There will be no one to terrify them; for the mouth of the LORD of heavenly forces has spoken.

Tobit 8: 5b-8: *That she and I may grow old together*

Tobias then began to speak: "Blessed are you, God of our ancestors, and blessed is your name for all generations. May the heavens and all your creation bless you forever! You created Adam and you created Eve his wife to help and support him, and from the two of them has come the human race. You said, 'It isn't good for the man to be alone; let's make for him a helper like himself.' I'm not taking this sister of mine now out of lust but with honest integrity. Grant that she and I will be shown mercy and grow old together." Together they said, "Amen, amen."

PSALMS *(one of these may be chosen, but is not expected or required)*

Psalm 25: 1-9: *All the paths of the Lord are love and faithfulness*

- ¹ I offer my life to you, LORD.
- ² My God, I trust you. Please don't let me be put to shame!
Don't let my enemies rejoice over me!
- ³ For that matter, don't let anyone who hopes in you be put to shame;
instead, let those who are treacherous without excuse be put to shame.
- ⁴ Make your ways known to me, LORD; teach me your paths.
- ⁵ Lead me in your truth—teach it to me—because you are the God who saves me.
I put my hope in you all day long.
- ⁶ LORD, remember your compassion and faithful love—they are forever!
- ⁷ But don't remember the sins of my youth or my wrongdoing.
Remember me only according to your faithful love
for the sake of your goodness, LORD.
- ⁸ The LORD is good and does the right thing;
he teaches sinners which way they should go.
- ⁹ God guides the weak to justice, teaching them his way.

Psalm 26: 1-8: *I have walked faithfully with you*

- ¹ Establish justice for me, LORD, because I have walked with integrity.
I've trusted the LORD without wavering.
- ² Examine me, LORD; put me to the test! Purify my mind and my heart.
- ³ Because your faithful love is right in front of me I walk in your truth!
- ⁴ I don't spend time with people up to no good; I don't keep company with liars.
- ⁵ I detest the company of evildoers, and I don't sit with wicked people.
- ⁶ I wash my hands—they are innocent! I walk all around your altar, LORD,
- ⁷ proclaiming out loud my thanks, declaring all your wonderful deeds!
- ⁸ I love the beauty of your house, LORD; I love the place where your glory resides.

Psalm 45: 1-4, 9-11, 14-16: *Strap your sword upon our thigh, O mighty warrior*

- ¹ A marvelous word has stirred my heart as I mention my works to the king.
My tongue is the pen of a skillful scribe.
- ² You are the most handsome of men; grace has been poured out on your lips.
No wonder God has blessed you forever!
- ³ Strap on your sword, great warrior, with your glory and grandeur.
- ⁴ Go and succeed in your grandeur!
Ride out on behalf of truth, humility, and righteousness!
Let your strong hand perform awesome deeds.^[b]
- ⁹ The royal princess is standing in your precious jewels; ^[a]
the queen stands at your right, dressed in the gold of Ophir.
- ¹⁰ Listen, daughter; pay attention, and listen closely!
Forget your people and your father's house.
- ¹¹ Let the king desire your beauty.
Because he is your master, bow down to him now.

- ¹⁴ In robes of many colors, she is led to the king.
Her attendants, the young women servants following her,
are presented to you as well.
- ¹⁵ As they enter the king's palace, they are led in with celebration and joy.
- ¹⁶ Your sons, great king, will succeed your fathers;
you will appoint them as princes throughout the land.

Psalm 65: Happy are they whom you choose and draw your courts to dwell there

- ¹ God of Zion, to you even silence is praise. Promises made to you are kept—
² you listen to prayer— and all living things come to you.
- ³ When wrongdoings become too much for me, you forgive our sins.
- ⁴ How happy is the one you choose to bring close, the one who lives in your courtyards!
We are filled full by the goodness of your house, by the holiness of your temple.
- ⁵ In righteousness you answer us, by your awesome deeds, God of our salvation—
you, who are the security of all the far edges of the earth, even the distant seas.
- ⁶ You establish the mountains by your strength; you are dressed in raw power.
- ⁷ You calm the roaring seas; calm the roaring waves, calm the noise of the nations.
- ⁸ Those who dwell on the far edges stand in awe of your acts.
You make the gateways of morning and evening sing for joy.
- ⁹ You visit the earth and make it abundant, enriching it greatly
by God's stream, full of water.
You provide people with grain because that is what you've decided.
- ¹⁰ Drenching the earth's furrows, leveling its ridges, you soften it with rain showers;
you bless its growth.
- ¹¹ You crown the year with your goodness; your paths overflow with rich food.
- ¹² Even the desert pastures drip with it, and the hills are dressed in pure joy.
- ¹³ The meadowlands are covered with flocks, the valleys decked out in grain—
they shout for joy; they break out in song!

Psalm 67: May God give us his blessing

- ¹ Let God grant us grace and bless us; let God make his face shine on us, *Selah*
² so that your way becomes known on earth,
so that your salvation becomes known among all the nations.
- ³ Let the people thank you, God! Let all the people thank you!
- ⁴ Let the people celebrate and shout with joy
because you judge the nations fairly and guide all nations on the earth. *Selah*
- ⁵ Let the people thank you, God! Let all the people thank you!
- ⁶ The earth has yielded its harvest. God blesses us—our God blesses us!
- ⁷ Let God continue to bless us; let the far ends of the earth honor him.

Psalm 85: 7-13: Righteousness and peace have kissed each other

- ⁷ Show us your faithful love, LORD! Give us your salvation!
- ⁸ Let me hear what the LORD God says,
because he speaks peace to his people and to his faithful ones.
Don't let them return to foolish ways.
- ⁹ God's salvation is very close to those who honor him

- so that his glory can live in our land.
- ¹⁰ Faithful love and truth have met; righteousness and peace have kissed.
- ¹¹ Truth springs up from the ground; righteousness gazes down from heaven.
- ¹² Yes, the LORD gives what is good, and our land yields its produce.
- ¹³ Righteousness walks before God, making a road for his steps.

Psalm 98: *Sing to the Lord a new song*

- ¹ Sing to the LORD a new song because he has done wonderful things!
His own strong hand and his own holy arm have won the victory!
- ² The LORD has made his salvation widely known;
he has revealed his righteousness in the eyes of all the nations.
- ³ God has remembered his loyal love and faithfulness to the house of Israel;
every corner of the earth has seen our God's salvation.
- ⁴ Shout triumphantly to the LORD, all the earth! Be happy! Rejoice out loud!
Sing your praises!
- ⁵ Sing your praises to the LORD with the lyre—
with the lyre and the sound of music.
- ⁶ With trumpets and a horn blast,
shout triumphantly before the LORD, the king!
- ⁷ Let the sea and everything in it roar;
the world and all its inhabitants too.
- ⁸ Let all the rivers clap their hands;
let the mountains rejoice out loud altogether
- ⁹ before the LORD because he is coming to establish justice on the earth!
He will establish justice in the world rightly;
he will establish justice among all people fairly.

Psalm 100: *God's faithfulness endures from age to age*

- ¹ Shout triumphantly to the LORD, all the earth!
- ² Serve the LORD with celebration! Come before him with shouts of joy!
- ³ Know that the LORD is God—he made us; we belong to him.^[a]
We are his people, the sheep of his own pasture.
- ⁴ Enter his gates with thanks; enter his courtyards with praise!
Thank him! Bless his name!
- ⁵ Because the LORD is good, his loyal love lasts forever;
his faithfulness lasts generation after generation.

Psalm 117: *The steadfast love of the Lord*

- ¹ Praise the LORD, all you nations!
Worship him, all you peoples!
- ² Because God's faithful love toward us is strong,
the LORD's faithfulness lasts forever!
Praise the LORD!

Psalm 121: The Lord keeps watch over you

- ¹ I raise my eyes toward the mountains.
Where will my help come from?
- ² My help comes from the LORD,
the maker of heaven and earth.
- ³ God won't let your foot slip.
Your protector won't fall asleep on the job.
- ⁴ No! Israel's protector
never sleeps or rests!
- ⁵ The LORD is your protector;
the LORD is your shade right beside you.
- ⁶ The sun won't strike you during the day;
neither will the moon at night.
- ⁷ The LORD will protect you from all evil;
God will protect your very life.^[a]
- ⁸ The LORD will protect you on your journeys—
whether going or coming—from now until forever from now.

Psalm 126: The Lord has done great things for them

- ¹ When the LORD changed Zion's circumstances for the better,
it was like we had been dreaming.
- ² Our mouths were suddenly filled with laughter;
our tongues were filled with joyful shouts.
It was even said, at that time, among the nations,
"The LORD has done great things for them!"
- ³ Yes, the LORD has done great things for us, and we are overjoyed.
- ⁴ LORD, change our circumstances for the better,
like dry streams in the desert waste!
- ⁵ Let those who plant with tears reap the harvest with joyful shouts.
- ⁶ Let those who go out, crying and carrying their seed,
come home with joyful shouts, carrying bales of grain!

Psalm 127: Children are a heritage from the Lord

- ¹ Unless it is the LORD who builds the house, the builders' work is pointless.
Unless it is the LORD who protects the city, the guard on duty is pointless.
- ² It is pointless that you get up early and stay up late, eating the bread of hard labor
because God gives sleep to those he loves.
- ³ No doubt about it: children are a gift from the LORD;
the fruit of the womb is a divine reward.
- ⁴ The children born when one is young
are like arrows in the hand of a warrior.
- ⁵ The person who fills a quiver full with them is truly happy!
They won't be ashamed when arguing with their enemies in the gate.

Psalm 128: *Blessed are those who walk in God's ways*

- ¹ Everyone who honors the LORD, who walks in God's ways, is truly happy!
- ² You will definitely enjoy what you've worked hard for—
you'll be happy; and things will go well for you.
- ³ In your house, your wife will be like a vine full of fruit.
All around your table, your children will be like olive trees, freshly planted.
- ⁴ That's how it goes for anyone who honors the LORD: they will be blessed!
- ⁵ May the LORD bless you from Zion.
May you experience Jerusalem's goodness your whole life long.
- ⁶ And may you see your grandchildren. Peace be on Israel!

Psalm 133: *How good and pleasant it is, when brethren live together in unity*

- ¹ Look at how good and pleasing it is when families live together as one!
- ² It is like expensive oil poured over the head, running down onto the beard—
Aaron's beard!— which extended over the collar of his robes.
- ³ It is like the dew on Mount Hermon streaming down onto the mountains of Zion,
because it is there that the LORD has commanded the blessing: everlasting life.

Psalm 138: *I will bow down because of your love and faithfulness*

- ¹ I give thanks to you with all my heart, LORD.^[a]
I sing your praise before all other gods.
- ² I bow toward your holy temple and thank your name
for your loyal love and faithfulness
because you have made your name and word greater than everything else.^[b]
- ³ On the day I cried out, you answered me.
You encouraged me with inner strength.^[c]
- ⁴ Let all the earth's rulers give thanks to you, LORD, when they hear what you say.
- ⁵ Let them sing about the LORD's ways
because the LORD's glory is so great!
- ⁶ Even though the LORD is high, he can still see the lowly,
but God keeps his distance from the arrogant.
- ⁷ Whenever I am in deep trouble, you make me live again;
you send your power against my enemies' wrath; you save me with your strong hand.
- ⁸ The LORD will do all this for my sake. Your faithful love lasts forever, LORD!
Don't let go of what your hands have made.

Psalm 148: *He made them stand fast for ever and ever*

- ¹ Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from heaven!
Praise God on the heights!
- ² Praise God, all of you who are his messengers!
Praise God, all of you who comprise his heavenly forces!
- ³ Sun and moon, praise God!
All of you bright stars, praise God!
- ⁴ You highest heaven, praise God!
Do the same, you waters that are above the sky!
- ⁵ Let all of these praise the LORD's name
because God gave the command and they were created!
- ⁶ God set them in place always and forever.
God made a law that will not be broken.
- ⁷ Praise the LORD from the earth,
you sea monsters and all you ocean depths!
- ⁸ Do the same, fire and hail, snow and smoke,
stormy wind that does what God says!
- ⁹ Do the same, you mountains, every single hill,
fruit trees, and every single cedar!
- ¹⁰ Do the same, you animals—wild or tame—
you creatures that creep along and you birds that fly!
- ¹¹ Do the same, you kings of the earth and every single person,
you princes and every single ruler on earth!
- ¹² Do the same, you young men—young women too!—
you who are old together with you who are young!
- ¹³ Let all of these praise the LORD's name
because only God's name is high over all.
Only God's majesty is over earth and heaven.
- ¹⁴ God raised the strength^[a] of his people,
the praise of all his faithful ones—
that's the Israelites, the people who are close to him. Praise the LORD!

Psalm 149: 1-5: *Let them be joyful on their beds*

- ¹ Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing God's praise in the assembly of the faithful!
- ² Let Israel celebrate its maker;
let Zion's children rejoice in their king!
- ³ Let them praise God's name with dance;
let them sing God's praise with the drum and lyre!
- ⁴ Because the LORD is pleased with his people,
God will beautify the poor with saving help.
- ⁵ Let the faithful celebrate with glory;
let them shout for joy on their beds.

Psalm 150: 1-5: *Let everything praise God*

¹ Praise the LORD!

Praise God in his sanctuary! Praise God in his fortress, the sky!

² Praise God in his mighty acts!

Praise God as suits his incredible greatness!

³ Praise God with the blast of the ram's horn!

Praise God with lute and lyre!

⁴ Praise God with drum and dance!

Praise God with strings and pipe!

⁵ Praise God with loud cymbals!

Praise God with clashing cymbals!

⁶ Let every living thing praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD!

NEW TESTAMENT LESSONS (*normally, one of these is chosen*)

Romans 8: 31-35, 37-39: *If God is for us, who is against us*

So what are we going to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He didn't spare his own Son but gave him up for us all. Won't he also freely give us all things with him? Who will bring a charge against God's elect people? It is God who acquits them. Who is going to convict them? It is Christ Jesus who died, even more, who was raised, and who also is at God's right side. It is Christ Jesus who also pleads our case for us. Who will separate us from Christ's love? Will we be separated by trouble, or distress, or harassment, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? But in all these things we win a sweeping victory through the one who loved us. I'm convinced that nothing can separate us from God's love in Christ Jesus our Lord: not death or life, not angels or rulers, not present things or future things, not powers or height or depth, or any other thing that is created.

Romans 12: 9-18: *Let love be genuine*

Love should be shown without pretending. Hate evil, and hold on to what is good. Love each other like the members of your family. Be the best at showing honor to each other. Don't hesitate to be enthusiastic—be on fire in the Spirit as you serve the Lord! Be happy in your hope, stand your ground when you're in trouble, and devote yourselves to prayer. Contribute to the needs of God's people, and welcome strangers into your home. Bless people who harass you—bless and don't curse them. Be happy with those who are happy, and cry with those who are crying. Consider everyone as equal, and don't think that you're better than anyone else. Instead, associate with people who have no status. Don't think that you're so smart. Don't pay back anyone for their evil actions with evil actions, but show respect for what everyone else believes is good. If possible, to the best of your ability, live at peace with all people.

1 Corinthians 12: 31b-13:13: *Love is patient and kind*

Use your ambition to try to get the greater gifts. And I'm going to show you an even better way. If I speak in tongues of human beings and of angels but I don't have love, I'm a clanging gong or a clashing cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and I know all the mysteries and everything else, and if I have such complete faith that I can move mountains but I don't have love, I'm nothing. If I give away everything that I have and hand over my own body to feel good about what I've done but I don't have love, I receive no benefit whatsoever. Love is patient, love is kind, it isn't jealous, it doesn't brag, it isn't arrogant, it isn't rude, it doesn't seek its own advantage, it isn't irritable, it doesn't keep a record of complaints, it isn't happy with injustice, but it is happy with the truth. Love puts up with all things, trusts in all things, hopes for all things, endures all things. Love never fails. As for prophecies, they will be brought to an end. As for tongues, they will stop. As for knowledge, it will be brought to an end. We know in part and we prophesy in part; but when the perfect comes, what is partial will be brought to an end. When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, reason like a child, think like a child. But now that I have become a man, I've put an end to childish things. Now we see a reflection in a mirror; then we will see face-to-face. Now I know partially, but then I will know completely in the same way that I have been completely known. Now faith, hope, and love remain—these three things—and the greatest of these is love.

2 Corinthians 5: 17-20: *A new creation*

So then, if anyone is in Christ, that person is part of the new creation. The old things have gone away, and look, new things have arrived! All of these new things are from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and who gave us the ministry of reconciliation. In other words, God was reconciling the world to himself through Christ, by not counting people's sins against them. He has trusted us with this message of reconciliation. So we are ambassadors who represent Christ. God is negotiating with you through us. We beg you as Christ's representatives, "Be reconciled to God!"

Galatians 3: 26-28: *You are one in Christ Jesus*

You are all God's children through faith in Christ Jesus. All of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek; there is neither slave nor free; nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 5: 14, 22-26: *The fruit of the Spirit*

All the Law has been fulfilled in a single statement: "Love your neighbor as yourself." But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against things like this. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the self with its passions and its desires. If we live by the Spirit, let's follow the Spirit. Let's not become arrogant, make each other angry, or be jealous of each other.

Ephesians 3: 14-21: *The Father from whom every family is named*

This is why I kneel before the Father. Every ethnic group in heaven or on earth is recognized by him. I ask that he will strengthen you in your inner selves from the riches of his glory through the Spirit. I ask that Christ will live in your hearts through faith. As a result of having strong roots in love, I ask that you'll have the power to grasp love's width and length, height and depth, together with all believers. I ask that you'll know the love of Christ that is beyond knowledge so that you will be filled entirely with the fullness of God. Glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine by his power at work within us; glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus for all generations, forever and always. Amen.

Ephesians 5: 1-2, 21-33: *Walk in love, as Christ loved us*

Therefore, imitate God like dearly loved children. Live your life with love, following the example of Christ, who loved us and gave himself for us. He was a sacrificial offering that smelled sweet to God. and submit to each other out of respect for Christ. For example, wives should submit to their husbands as if to the Lord. A husband is the head of his wife like Christ is head of the church, that is, the savior of the body. So wives submit to their husbands in everything like the church submits to Christ. As for husbands, love your wives just like Christ loved the church and gave himself for her. He did this to make her holy by washing her in a bath of water with the word. He did this to present himself with a splendid church, one without any sort of stain or wrinkle on her clothes, but rather one that is holy and blameless. That's how husbands ought to love their wives—in the same way as they do their own bodies. Anyone who loves his wife loves himself. No one ever hates his own body, but feeds it and takes care of it just like Christ does for the church because we are parts of his body. "This is why a man will leave his father and mother and be united with his wife, and the two of them will be one body." Marriage is a significant allegory, and I'm applying it to Christ and the church. In any case, as for you individually, each one of you should love his wife as himself, and wives should respect their husbands.

Colossians 3: 12-17: *Love which binds everything together in harmony*

Therefore, as God's choice, holy and loved, put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Be tolerant with each other and, if someone has a complaint against anyone, forgive each other. As the Lord forgave you, so also forgive each other. And over all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. The peace of Christ must control your hearts—a peace into which you were called in one body. And be thankful people. The word of Christ must live in you richly. Teach and warn each other with all wisdom by singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Sing to God with gratitude in your hearts. Whatever you do, whether in speech or action, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus and give thanks to God the Father through him.

1 John 3: 18-24: *Our hearts do not condemn us*

Little children, let's not love with words or speech but with action and truth. This is how we will know that we belong to the truth and reassure our hearts in God's presence. Even if our hearts condemn us, God is greater than our hearts and knows all things. Dear friends, if our hearts don't condemn us, we have confidence in relationship to God. We receive whatever we ask from him because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. This is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love each other as he commanded us. Those who keep his commandments dwell in God and God dwells in them. This is how we know that he dwells in us, because of the Spirit he has given us.

1 John 4: 7-16, 21: *Let us love one another for love is of God*

Dear friends, let's love each other, because love is from God, and everyone who loves is born from God and knows God. The person who doesn't love does not know God, because God is love. This is how the love of God is revealed to us: God has sent his only Son into the world so that we can live through him. This is love: it is not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son as the sacrifice that deals with our sins. Dear friends, if God loved us this way, we also ought to love each other. No one has ever seen God. If we love each other, God remains in us and his love is made perfect in us. This is how we know we remain in him and he remains in us, because he has given us a measure of his Spirit. We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the savior of the world. If any of us confess that Jesus is God's Son, God remains in us and we remain in God. We have known and have believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who remain in love remain in God and God remains in them. This commandment we have from him: Those who claim to love God ought to love their brother and sister also.

GOSPEL LESSONS *(normally, one of these is chosen)*

Note: If Holy Eucharist is part of the service, this reading is required and is read by clergy

Matthew 5: 1-16: *You are the light . . . Let your light so shine*

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up a mountain. He sat down and his disciples came to him. He taught them, saying: "Happy are people who are hopeless, because the kingdom of heaven is theirs. "Happy are people who grieve, because they will be made glad. "Happy are people who are humble, because they will inherit the earth. "Happy are people who are hungry and thirsty for righteousness, because they will be fed until they are full. "Happy are people who show mercy, because they will receive mercy. "Happy are people who have pure hearts, because they will see God. "Happy are people who make peace, because they will be called God's children. "Happy are people whose lives are harassed because they are righteous, because the kingdom of heaven is theirs. "Happy are you when people insult you and harass you and speak all kinds of bad and false things about you, all because of me. Be full of joy and be glad, because you have a great reward in heaven. In the same way, people harassed the prophets who came before you. "You are the salt of the

earth. But if salt loses its saltiness, how will it become salty again? It's good for nothing except to be thrown away and trampled under people's feet. You are the light of the world. A city on top of a hill can't be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a basket. Instead, they put it on top of a lampstand, and it shines on all who are in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before people, so they can see the good things you do and praise your Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 7: 21, 24-29: *Like a wise man who built his house upon the rock*

"Not everybody who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will get into the kingdom of heaven. Only those who do the will of my Father who is in heaven will enter. "Everybody who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise builder who built a house on bedrock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the wind blew and beat against that house. It didn't fall because it was firmly set on bedrock. But everybody who hears these words of mine and doesn't put them into practice will be like a fool who built a house on sand. The rain fell, the floods came, and the wind blew and beat against that house. It fell and was completely destroyed." When Jesus finished these words, the crowds were amazed at his teaching because he was teaching them like someone with authority and not like their legal experts.

Mark 3: 31-35: *Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother*

His mother and brothers arrived. They stood outside and sent word to him, calling for him. A crowd was seated around him, and those sent to him said, "Look, your mother, brothers, and sisters are outside looking for you." He replied, "Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?" Looking around at those seated around him in a circle, he said, "Look, here are my mother and my brothers. Whoever does God's will is my brother, sister, and mother."

Mark 10: 6-9, 13-16: *They are no longer two but one*

At the beginning of creation, "God made them male and female. Because of this, a man should leave his father and mother and be joined together with his wife, and the two will be one flesh. "So they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore, humans must not pull apart what God has put together." People were bringing children to Jesus so that he would bless them. But the disciples scolded them. When Jesus saw this, he grew angry and said to them, "Allow the children to come to me. Don't forbid them, because God's kingdom belongs to people like these children. I assure you that whoever doesn't welcome God's kingdom like a child will never enter it." Then he hugged the children and blessed them.

Mark 12: 28-34: *You are not far from the kingdom of God*

One of the legal experts heard their dispute and saw how well Jesus answered them. He came over and asked him, "Which commandment is the most important of all?" Jesus replied, "The most important one is Israel, listen! Our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this, You will love your neighbor as yourself. No other commandment is greater than these." The legal

expert said to him, “Well said, Teacher. You have truthfully said that God is one and there is no other besides him. And to love God with all of the heart, a full understanding, and all of one’s strength, and to love one’s neighbor as oneself is much more important than all kinds of entirely burned offerings and sacrifices.” When Jesus saw that he had answered with wisdom, he said to him, “You aren’t far from God’s kingdom.” After that, no one dared to ask him any more questions.

Luke 6: 32-38: *Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful*

“If you love those who love you, why should you be commended? Even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, why should you be commended? Even sinners do that. If you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, why should you be commended? Even sinners lend to sinners expecting to be paid back in full. Instead, love your enemies, do good, and lend expecting nothing in return. If you do, you will have a great reward. You will be acting the way children of the Most High act, for he is kind to ungrateful and wicked people. Be compassionate just as your Father is compassionate. “Don’t judge, and you won’t be judged. Don’t condemn, and you won’t be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you. A good portion—packed down, firmly shaken, and overflowing—will fall into your lap. The portion you give will determine the portion you receive in return.”

John 2: 1-11: *The wedding at Cana*

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee. Jesus’ mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the celebration. When the wine ran out, Jesus’ mother said to him, “They don’t have any wine.” Jesus replied, “Woman, what does that have to do with me? My time hasn’t come yet.” His mother told the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.” Nearby were six stone water jars used for the Jewish cleansing ritual, each able to hold about twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, “Fill the jars with water,” and they filled them to the brim. Then he told them, “Now draw some from them and take it to the headwaiter,” and they did. The headwaiter tasted the water that had become wine. He didn’t know where it came from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. The headwaiter called the groom and said, “Everyone serves the good wine first. They bring out the second-rate wine only when the guests are drinking freely. You kept the good wine until now.” This was the first miraculous sign that Jesus did in Cana of Galilee. He revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.

John 15: 9-17: *Love one another as I have loved you*

“As the Father loved me, I too have loved you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I kept my Father’s commandments and remain in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy will be in you and your joy will be complete. This is my commandment: love each other just as I have loved you. No one has greater love than to give up one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I don’t call you servants any longer, because servants don’t know what their master is doing. Instead, I call you friends, because everything I heard from my Father I have made

known to you. You didn't choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you could go and produce fruit and so that your fruit could last. As a result, whatever you ask the Father in my name, he will give you. I give you these commandments so that you can love each other.

John 17: 1-2, 18-26: *Let them be one, as we are one*

When Jesus finished saying these things, he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, so that the Son can glorify you. You gave him authority over everyone so that he could give eternal life to everyone you gave him. As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. I made myself holy on their behalf so that they also would be made holy in the truth. "I'm not praying only for them but also for those who believe in me because of their word. I pray they will be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. I pray that they also will be in us, so that the world will believe that you sent me. I've given them the glory that you gave me so that they can be one just as we are one. I'm in them and you are in me so that they will be made perfectly one. Then the world will know that you sent me and that you have loved them just as you loved me. "Father, I want those you gave me to be with me where I am. Then they can see my glory, which you gave me because you loved me before the creation of the world. "Righteous Father, even the world didn't know you, but I've known you, and these believers know that you sent me. I've made your name known to them and will continue to make it known so that your love for me will be in them, and I myself will be in them."