A Reading from the Book of Sirach.

Blessed the husband of a good wife,
   Twice-lengthened are his days;
A worthy wife brings joy to her husband,
   peaceful and full is his life.
A good wife is a generous gift,
   bestowed upon him who fears the Lord;
Be he rich or poor, his heart is content,
   And a smile is ever on his face.

A gracious wife delights her husband,
   her thoughtfulness puts flesh on his bones;
A gift from the Lord is her governed speech,
   and her firm virtue is of surpassing worth.
Choicest of blessings is a modest wife,
   priceless her chaste soul.
A holy and decent woman adds grace upon grace;
   Indeed, no price is worthy of her temperate soul.
Like the sun rising in the Lord’s heavens,
   the beauty of a virtuous wife is the radiance of her home.

The Word of the Lord.