

## **A Reading from the Book of Proverbs**

**Who shall find a valiant woman? Who shall find a woman of strength?**

**A pearl of great price is she. Her friends all have confidence in her,  
and benefit from her wise counsel.**

**She initiates good, not evil, every day of her life.**

**She opens her heart to the needy; she is generous with the poor.**

**Yet she does not neglect her family's needs, nor priorities of her own.**

**She is clothed with strength and dignity, and she laughs at the days to come.**

**She often speaks with wisdom, and teaches in a kindly way.**

**Those who are close to her praise her; her family extol 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 for her labors, and let her works praise her at  
the city gates.**

**The Word of the Lord**