

FIRST READING

**Special:**

**Proverbs 31:10–24**

**READER:** A reading from the Book of Proverbs

When one finds a worthy wife, her value is far beyond pearls. Her husband, entrusting his heart to her, has an unfailing prize.

She brings him good, and not evil, all the days of her life. She obtains wool and flax and makes cloth with skillful hands.

Like merchant ships, she secures her provisions from afar. She rises while it is still night, and distributes food to her household.

She picks out a field to purchase; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard. She is girt about with strength, and sturdy are her arms.

She enjoys the success of her dealings; at night her lamp is undimmed. She puts her hand to the distaff, and her fingers ply the spindle.

She reaches out her hands to the poor, and extends her arms to the needy.

She fears not the snow for her household, all her charges are doubly clothed. She makes her own coverlets; fine linen and purple are her clothing.

Her husband is prominent at the city gates as he sits with the elders of the land.

She makes garments and sells them, and stocks the merchants with belts.

**READER:** The Word of the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God.