

FIRST READING

Special:

Sirach 6:5-17

READER: A reading from the Book of Sirach

A kind mouth multiples friends and appeases enemies, and glorious lips prompt friendly greetings.

Let your acquaintances be many, but one in a thousand your confidant.

When you gain a friend, first test him, and be not too ready to trust him.

For one sort is a friend when it suits him, and he will not be with you in times of distress.

Another is a friend who becomes an enemy, and tells of the quarrel to your shame.

Another is a friend, a boon companion, who will not be with you when sorrow comes.

When things go well, he is your other self, and lords it over your other servants;

But if you are brought low, he turns against you and avoids meeting you.

Keep away from your enemies; be on guard with your friends.

A faithful friend is a sturdy shelter; he who finds one finds a treasure.

A faithful friend is beyond price, no sum can balance his worth.

A faithful friend is a life-saving remedy, such as he who fears God finds,

For he who fears God behaves accordingly, and his friend will be like himself.

READER: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.