

**FIRST READING**

*Proverbs 31:10-12,31:25-31*

Reader: The word of the Lord.

**Response: Thanks be to God.**

A perfect wife—who can find her?  
She is far beyond the price of pearls.

Her husband's heart has confidence in her,  
from her he will derive no little profit.

Advantage and not hurt she brings him  
all the days of her life.

She is clothed in strength and dignity,  
she can laugh at the days to come.

When she opens her mouth, she does so wisely;  
on her tongue is kindly instruction.

She keeps good watch on the conduct of her household,  
no bread of idleness for her.

Her children stand up and proclaim her blessed,  
her husband, too, sings her praises:

“Many women have done admirable things,  
but you surpass them all!”

Charm is deceitful, and beauty empty;  
the woman who is wise is the one to praise.

Give her a share in what her hands have worked for,  
and let her works tell her praises at the city gates.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

**Response: Thanks be to God.**