

A reading from the Book of Joshua

Joshua gathered together all the tribes of Israel at Shechem,
summoning their elders, their leaders,
their judges, and their officers.
When they stood in ranks before God,
Joshua addressed all the people:
"If it does not please you to serve the LORD,
decide today whom you will serve,
the gods your fathers served beyond the River
or the gods of the Amorites in whose country you are now dwelling.
As for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

But the people answered,
"Far be it from us to forsake the LORD
for the service of other gods.
For it was the LORD, our God,
who brought us and our fathers up out of the land of Egypt,
out of a state of slavery.
He performed those great miracles before our very eyes
and protected us along our entire journey
and among the peoples through whom we passed.
Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God."

The Word of the Lord!

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians

Beloved,
be kind to one another, tenderhearted,
forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.
Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children,
and live in love, as Christ loved us
and gave himself up for us,
a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.
Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Husbands and wives, love your spouse,
just as Christ loved the church
and gave himself up for her,
in order to make her holy
by cleansing her with the washing of water by the word,
so as to present the church to himself in splendor,
without a spot or wrinkle or anything of the kind –
yes, so that she may be holy and without blemish.

In the same way, husbands and wives should love their spouses as they do their own bodies.

He who loves his wife loves himself.

For no one ever hates his own body,
but he nourishes and tenderly cares for it,
just as Christ does for the church,
because we are members of his body.

“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother
and be joined to his wife,
and the two will become one flesh.”

This is a great mystery,
and I am applying it to Christ and the church.

The Word of the Lord!

Gospel

[Jn 6:60-69](#)

Many of Jesus' disciples who were listening said,
"This saying is hard; who can accept it?"
Since Jesus knew that his disciples were murmuring about this,
he said to them, "Does this shock you?
What if you were to see the Son of Man ascending
to where he was before?
It is the spirit that gives life,
while the flesh is of no avail.
The words I have spoken to you are Spirit and life.
But there are some of you who do not believe."
Jesus knew from the beginning the ones who would not believe
and the one who would betray him.
And he said,
"For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me
unless it is granted him by my Father."

As a result of this,
many of his disciples returned to their former way of life
and no longer accompanied him.
Jesus then said to the Twelve, "Do you also want to leave?"
Simon Peter answered him, "Master, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life.
We have come to believe
and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God."