

A Reading from the Book of Proverbs,

8:1 Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice?

8:2 On the heights, beside the way, at the crossroads she takes her stand;

8:3 beside the gates in front of the town, at the entrance of the portals  
she cries out:

8:4 "To you, O people, I call, and my cry is to all that live.

8:22 The LORD created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his  
acts of long ago.

8:23 Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth.

8:24 When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were  
no springs abounding with water.

8:25 Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was  
brought forth--

8:26 when he had not yet made earth and fields, or the world's first bits  
of soil.

8:27 When he established the heavens, I was there, when he drew a  
circle on the face of the deep,

8:28 when he made firm the skies above, when he established the  
fountains of the deep,

8:29 when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth,

8:30 then I was beside him, like a master worker; and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always,

8:31 rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the human race.

Word of God. Word of Life.