

## “And they shall become one flesh”

The Book of Genesis records God’s creation of woman from man:

“And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. And Adam said: ‘This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man.’ Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.”  
(2:21-24 NKJ)

The Blessed Reformer of the Church, the Reverend Doctor Martin Luther, commenting on Genesis 2:22, writes of marriage:

“What Moses adds, ‘And He brought her to Adam,’ is a sort of description of betrothal, which is worthy of special note. Adam does not snatch Eve of his own will after she has been created, but he waits for God to bring her to him. So Christ also says ‘What God has joined let no man part.’ For the lawful joining of a man and a woman is a divine ordinance and institution.”  
(*Commentary on Genesis, AE 1.134*)

The blessed unity, or “one-ness” of man and woman, was lost in the fall into sin. It is restored when the side of the True Bridegroom, Jesus Christ, is opened by Roman spear point on the cross. The Water and Blood that issue forth from the riven side of God, who took on our flesh, give life to the chaste and pure Bride of Christ, His Holy Church. So it is in Christ, the Perfect Man, that God restores man and woman to a right relationship with Himself, and with one another.

Cover Art – *Eve Brought Forth From Adam’s Side*

Medieval Austrian Bible Illumination, *The Lilienfeld Bible*, c. 1235 A.✠ D.

The Lilienfeld Cistercian Abbey was founded in 1202 A.✠ D.

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# The Divine Office At Vespers



## With the Wedding Of