

## DECEMBER 18: MASS

*The First Lesson. The Reader begins*

### **A Reading from the Book of Jeremiah**

“Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: ‘The LORD is our righteousness.’ Therefore, behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when men shall no longer say, ‘As the LORD lives who brought up the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt,’ but ‘As the LORD lives who brought up and led the descendants of the house of Israel out of the north country and out of all the countries where he had driven them.’ Then they shall dwell in their own land.”

*The Reader concludes*

The Word of the Lord.

*Please turn the page to lead the appointed psalm.*

## **Psalm 72:11–17**

*At Said Mass the Reader says*

Please join me in reading Psalm 72, verses 11 through 17, found in the red Prayer Book on page 686.

*(The Reader repeats the above information as needed.)*

*At Sung Mass the Reader says*

Please join me in reading Psalm 72 as found in the service bulletin.

- 11 All kings shall bow down before him, \*  
and all the nations do him service.
- 12 For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in  
distress, \*  
and the oppressed who has no helper.
- 13 He shall have pity on the lowly and poor; \*  
he shall preserve the lives of the needy.
- 14 He shall redeem their lives from oppression and  
violence, \*  
and dear shall their blood be in his sight.

- 15 Long may he live!  
and may there be given to him gold from Arabia; \*  
may prayer be made for him always,  
and may they bless him all the day long.
- 16 May there be abundance of grain on the earth,  
growing thick even on the hilltops; \*  
may its fruit flourish like Lebanon,  
and its grain like grass upon the earth.
- 17 May his Name remain for ever  
and be established as long as the sun endures; \*  
may all the nations bless themselves in him and  
call him blessed.

*Please turn the page to lead the Gospel Acclamation.*

## **The Gospel Acclamation**

*The Reader leads the appointed acclamation.*

*Reader* Alleluia.

*People* Alleluia.

*Reader* O come, thou Branch of Jesse's tree,  
Free them from Satan's tyranny \*  
that trust thy mighty power to save,  
and give them victory over the grave.

*People* Alleluia.

*The Reader returns to his or her seat.*

## **The Holy Gospel**

*The Minister says* The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Minister* ✠ The Holy Gospel of our Lord  
Jesus Christ according to  
Matthew.

*People* Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way.  
When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph,  
before they came together she was found to be with  
child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph,  
being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame,  
resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered

this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: “Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel” (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.

*The Minister says*            The Gospel of the Lord.