

DECEMBER 19: MASS

For use with the First Lesson

Adapted from *The Vocabulary of the Church* (1960):

Zor'ah	ZOR-uh
Mano'ah	muh-NOH-uh
Nazirite	NAZ-ur-ight
Ma'haneh-dan	MAY-han-ni-dan
Esh'ta-ol	ESH-tay-ohl

The First Lesson. The Reader begins

A Reading from the Book of Judges

And there was a certain man of Zor'ah, of the tribe of the Danites, whose name was Mano'ah; and his wife was barren and had no children. And the angel of the LORD appeared to the woman and said to her, “Behold, you are barren and have no children; but you shall conceive and bear a son. Therefore beware, and drink no wine or strong drink, and eat nothing unclean, for lo, you shall conceive and bear a son. No razor shall come upon his head, for the boy shall be a Nazirite to God from birth; and he shall begin to deliver Israel from the hand of the Philistines.” Then the woman came and told her husband, “A man of

God came to me, and his countenance was like the countenance of the angel of God, very terrible; I did not ask him whence he was, and he did not tell me his name; but he said to me, ‘Behold, you shall conceive and bear a son; so then drink no wine or strong drink, and eat nothing unclean, for the boy shall be a Nazirite to God from birth to the day of his death.’ ” And the woman bore a son, and called his name Samson; and the boy grew, and the LORD blessed him. And the Spirit of the LORD began to stir him in Ma'haneh-dan, between Zor'ah and Esh'ta-ol.

The Reader concludes The Word of the Lord.

Psalm 71:1–8

At Said Mass the Reader says

Please join me in reading Psalm 71, verses 1 through 8, found in the red Prayer Book on page 683.

(The Reader repeats the above information as needed.)

At Sung Mass the Reader says

Please join me in reading Psalm 71 as found in the service bulletin.

1 In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; *
 let me never be ashamed.

- 2 In your righteousness, deliver me and set
me free; *
incline your ear to me and save me.
- 3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe; *
you are my crag and my stronghold.
- 4 Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the
wicked, *
from the clutches of the evildoer and the
oppressor.
- 5 For you are my hope, O Lord GOD, *
my confidence since I was young.
- 6 I have been sustained by you ever since I was
born;
from my mother's womb you have been my
strength; *
my praise shall be always of you.
- 7 I have become a portent to many; *
but you are my refuge and my strength.
- 8 Let my mouth be full of your praise*
and your glory all the day long.

The Gospel Acclamation

The Reader leads the appointed acclamation.

Reader Alleluia.

People Alleluia.

Reader O come, thou Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home; *
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.

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 Luke.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In the days of Herod, king of Jude'a, there was a priest named Zechari'ah, of the division of Abi'jah; and he had a wife of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless. But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were

advanced in years. Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, according to the custom of the priesthood, it fell to him by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. And Zechari'ah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechari'ah, for your prayer is heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth; for he will be great before the Lord, and he shall drink no wine nor strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. And he will turn many of the sons of Israel to the Lord their God, and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared." And Zechari'ah said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years." And the angel answered him, "I am Gabriel, who stand in the presence of God; and I was sent to speak to you, and to bring you this good

news. And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things come to pass, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time.” And the people were waiting for Zechari'ah, and they wondered at his delay in the temple. And when he came out, he could not speak to them, and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple; and he made signs to them and remained dumb. And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home. After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she hid herself, saying, “Thus the Lord has done to me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among men.”

The Minister says The Gospel of the Lord.