

DECEMBER 20: MASS

For use with the First Lesson

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

A'haz

AY-haz

She'ol

SHEE-ol

The First Lesson. The Reader begins

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah

Again the LORD spoke to A'haz, “Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as She'ol or high as heaven.” But A'haz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, a young woman shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Imman'u-el.”

The Reader concludes

The Word of the Lord.

Please turn the page to lead the appointed psalm.

Psalm 24

At Said Mass the Reader says

Please join me in reading Psalm 24, found in the red Prayer Book beginning on page 613.

(The Reader repeats the above information as needed.)

At Sung Mass the Reader says

Please join me in reading Psalm 24 as found in the service bulletin.

- 1 The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it, *
the world and all who dwell therein.
- 2 For it is he who founded it upon the seas *
and made it firm upon the rivers of the deep.
- 3 "Who can ascend the hill of the LORD? *
and who can stand in his holy place?"
- 4 "Those who have clean hands and a pure heart, *
who have not pledged themselves to falsehood,
nor sworn by what is a fraud.
- 5 They shall receive a blessing from the LORD *
and a just reward from the God of their
salvation."

- 6 Such is the generation of those who seek him, *
of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob.
- 7 Lift up your heads, O gates;
lift them high, O everlasting doors; *
and the King of glory shall come in.
- 8 “Who is this King of glory?” *
“The Lord, strong and mighty,
the Lord, mighty in battle.”
- 9 Lift up your heads, O gates;
lift them high, O everlasting doors; *
and the King of glory shall come in.
- 10 “Who is he, this King of glory?” *
“The LORD of hosts,
he is the King of glory.”

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 Dayspring from on high,
and cheer us by thy drawing nigh; *
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark angels put to flight.

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 sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Hail, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered in her mind what sort of

greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there will be no end.” And Mary said to the angel, “How shall this be, since I have no husband?” And the angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, your kinswoman Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For with God nothing will be impossible.” And Mary said, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

The Minister says The Gospel of the Lord.