

DECEMBER 23: MASS

The First Lesson. The Reader begins

A Reading from the Book of Malachi

“Behold, I send my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, till they present right offerings to the LORD. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years. Then I will draw near to you for judgment; I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.”

The Reader concludes

The Word of the Lord.

Psalm 25:1–6

At Said Mass the Reader says

Please join me in reading Psalm 25, verses 1 through 6, found in the red Prayer Book beginning on page 614.

(The Reader repeats the above information as needed.)

At Sung Mass the Reader says

Please join me in reading Psalm 25 as found in the service bulletin.

- 1 To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul;
my God, I put my trust in you; *
let me not be humiliated,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
- 2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; *
let the treacherous be disappointed in their
schemes.
- 3 Show me your ways, O LORD, *
and teach me your paths.
- 4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, *
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.

- 5 Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, *
for they are from everlasting.
- 6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my
transgressions; *
remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

The Gospel Acclamation

The Reader leads the appointed acclamation.

Reader Alleluia.

People Alleluia.

Reader O Virgin of virgins, how shall this be?
For neither before you was any like you,
nor shall there be after. *

Daughters of Jerusalem, why marvel at
me?

The thing which you behold is a divine
mystery.

People Alleluia

The Reader returns to his or her seat.

Please turn the page for the Gospel Lesson.

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.

Now the time came for Elizabeth to be delivered, and she gave birth to a son. And her neighbors and kinsfolk heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child; and they would have named him Zechari'ah after his father, but his mother said, "Not so; he shall be called John." And they said to her, "None of your kindred is called by this name." And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he would have him called. And he asked for a writing tablet, and wrote, "His name is John." And they all marveled. And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. And fear came on all their neighbors. And all these things were talked about through all the hill country of Jude'a; and all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, "What then will this child be?" For the hand of the Lord was with him.

The Minister says The Gospel of the Lord.