

ADVENT 2, THURSDAY: MASS

For use with the First Lesson

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

aca'cia

uh-KAY-shuh

The First Lesson. The Reader begins

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah

For I, the LORD your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, “Fear not, I will help you.” Fear not, you worm Jacob, you men of Israel! I will help you, says the LORD; your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel. Behold, I will make of you a threshing sledge, new, sharp, and having teeth; you shall thresh the mountains and crush them, and you shall make the hills like chaff; you shall winnow them and the wind shall carry them away, and the tempest shall scatter them. And you shall rejoice in the LORD; in the Holy One of Israel you shall glory. When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue is parched with thirst, I the LORD will answer them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them. I will open rivers on the bare heights, and fountains in the midst of the valleys; I will make the wilderness a pool of

water, and the dry land springs of water. I will put in the wilderness the cedar, the acacia, the myrtle, and the olive; I will set in the desert the cypress, the plane and the pine together; that men may see and know, may consider and understand together, that the hand of the LORD has done this, the Holy One of Israel has created it.

The Reader concludes The Word of the Lord.

Psalm 145:1–7

The Reader says

Please join me in reading Psalm 145, verses 1 through 7, found in the red Prayer Book on page 801.

(The Reader repeats the above information as needed.)

- 1 I will exalt you, O God my King, *
 and bless your Name for ever and ever.

- 2 Every day will I bless you *
 and praise your Name for ever and ever.

- 3 Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; *
 there is no end to his greatness.

- 4 One generation shall praise your works to
another *
and shall declare your power.
- 5 I will ponder the glorious splendor of your
majesty *
and all your marvelous works.
- 6 They shall speak of the might of your wondrous
acts, *
and I will tell of your greatness.
- 7 They shall publish the remembrance of your great
goodness; *
they shall sing of your righteous deeds.

Please turn the page to lead the Gospel Acclamation.

The Gospel Acclamation

The Reader leads the appointed acclamation.

Reader Alleluia.

People Alleluia.

Reader Prepare the way of the Lord, make his
paths straight; *
and all flesh shall see the salvation of our
God.

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.

As John's disciples went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to behold? A reed shaken by the wind? Why then did you go out? To see a man clothed in soft raiment? Behold, those who wear soft raiment are in kings' houses. Why then did you go out? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.

This is he of whom it is written, ‘Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, who shall prepare thy way before thee.’ Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has risen no one greater than John the Baptist; yet he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and men of violence take it by force. For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John; and if you are willing to accept it, he is Eli’jah who is to come. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

The Minister says The Gospel of the Lord.