

YEAR B, ADVENT 3, SUNDAY: MASS

The First Lesson. The Reader begins

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah

Behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind. But be glad and rejoice for ever in that which I create; for behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy. I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and be glad in my people; no more shall be heard in it the sound of weeping and the cry of distress. No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days, or an old man who does not fill out his days, for the child shall die a hundred years old, and the sinner a hundred years old shall be accursed. They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labor in vain, or bear children for calamity; for they shall be the offspring of the blessed of the LORD, and their children with them. Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear. The wolf and the lamb shall feed together,

the lion shall eat straw like the ox; and dust shall be the serpent's food. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain, says the LORD.

The Reader concludes The Word of the Lord.

Psalm 126

The Reader says

Please join me in reading Psalm 126, found in the red Prayer Book on page 782.

(The Reader repeats the above information as needed.)

1. When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, *
then were we like those who dream.
2. Then was our mouth filled with laughter, *
and our tongue with shouts of joy.
3. Then they said among the nations, *
“The LORD has done great things for them.”
4. The LORD has done great things for us, *
and we are glad indeed.
5. Restore our fortunes, O LORD, *
like the watercourses of the Negev.

6. Those who sowed with tears *
will reap with songs of joy.
7. Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, *
will come again with joy, shouldering their
sheaves.

The Second Lesson. The Reader begins

**A Reading from the First Letter of Paul
to the Thessalonians**

Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit, do not despise prophesying, but test everything; hold fast what is good, abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you wholly; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, and he will do it. Brethren, pray for us. Greet all the brethren with a holy kiss. I adjure you by the Lord that this letter be read to all the brethren. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

The Reader concludes The Word of the Lord.

The Gospel Acclamation

All stand as the reader leads the appointed acclamation.

Reader Alleluia.

People Alleluia.

Reader The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; *
he has anointed me to preach good
tidings to the poor.

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 John.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light. And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” He confessed, he did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” And they asked him,

“What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.”
“Are you the prophet?” And he answered, “No.” They
said to him then, “Who are you? Let us have an
answer for those who sent us. What do you say about
yourself?” He said, “I am the voice of one crying in
the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as
the prophet Isaiah said.” Now they had been sent
from the Pharisees. They asked him, “Then why are
you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Eli’jah,
nor the prophet?” John answered them, “I baptize
with water; but among you stands one whom you do
not know, even he who comes after me, the thong of
whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” This took
place in Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John was
baptizing.

The Minister says

The Gospel of the Lord.