

DECEMBER 22: MASS

The First Lesson. The Reader begins

A Reading from the First Book of Samuel

Elka'nah and Hannah rose early in the morning and worshiped before the LORD; then they went back to their house at Ramah. And Elka'nah knew Hannah his wife, and the LORD remembered her; and in due time Hannah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Samuel, for she said, "I have asked him of the LORD." And the man Elka'nah and all his house went up to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice, and to pay his vow. But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, "As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, that he may appear in the presence of the LORD, and abide there for ever." Elka'nah her husband said to her, "Do what seems best to you, wait until you have weaned him; only, may the LORD establish his word." So the woman remained and nursed her son, until she weaned him. And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine; and she brought him to the house of the LORD at Shiloh; and the child was young. Then they slew the bull, and they brought the child to Eli. And she said, "Oh, my lord!

As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the LORD. For this child I prayed; and the LORD has granted me my petition which I made to him. Therefore I have lent him to the LORD; as long as he lives, he is lent to the LORD.” And they worshiped the LORD there.

The Reader concludes The Word of the Lord.

Psalm 113

At Said Mass the Reader says

Please join me in reading Psalm 113, found in the red Prayer Book on page 756.

(The Reader repeats the above information as needed.)

At Sung Mass the Reader says

Please join me in reading Psalm 113 as found in the service bulletin.

- 1 Hallelujah!
 Give praise, you servants of the LORD; *
 praise the Name of the LORD.

- 2 Let the Name of the LORD be blessed, *
 from this time forth for evermore.

- 3 From the rising of the sun to its going down *
let the Name of the LORD be praised.
- 4 The LORD is high above all nations, *
and his glory above the heavens.
- 5 Who is like the LORD our God, who sits
enthroned on high, *
but stoops to behold the heavens and the earth?
- 6 He takes up the weak out of the dust *
and lifts up the poor from the ashes.
- 7 He sets them with the princes, *
with the princes of his people.
- 8 He makes the woman of a childless house *
to be a joyful mother of children.

The Reader says

Please stand for the Gospel.

The Gospel Acclamation

The Reader leads the appointed acclamation.

Reader Alleluia.

People Alleluia.

Reader O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel, *
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

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 those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a city of Judah, and she entered the house of Zechari'ah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your

womb! And why is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.” And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden. For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. And his mercy is on those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm, he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts, he has put down the mighty from their thrones, and exalted those of low degree; he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his posterity for ever.” And Mary remained with her about three months, and returned to her home.

The Minister says

The Gospel of the Lord.