

## YEAR 1, PROPER 15, WEDNESDAY: MASS

### For use with the First Lesson

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

Shech'em

SHEK-uhm

Beth-mil'lo

beth-MIL-o

Ger'izim

GAIR-uh-zim (hard “G”)

*The First Lesson. The Reader begins*

### **A Reading from the Book of Judges**

All the citizens of Shech'em came together, and all Beth-mil'lo, and they went and made Abim'elech king, by the oak of the pillar at Shech'em. When it was told to Jo'tham, he went and stood on the top of Mount Ger'izim, and cried aloud and said to them, “Listen to me, you men of Shech'em, that God may listen to you. The trees once went forth to anoint a king over them; and they said to the olive tree, ‘Reign over us.’ But the olive tree said to them, ‘Shall I leave my fatness, by which gods and men are honored, and go to sway over the trees?’ And the trees said to the fig tree, ‘Come you, and reign over us.’ But the fig tree said to them, ‘Shall I leave my sweetness and my good fruit, and go to sway over the trees?’ And the trees said to the vine,

‘Come you, and reign over us.’ But the vine said to them, ‘Shall I leave my wine which cheers gods and men, and go to sway over the trees?’ Then all the trees said to the bramble, ‘Come you, and reign over us.’ And the bramble said to the trees, ‘If in good faith you are anointing me king over you, then come and take refuge in my shade; but if not, let fire come out of the bramble and devour the cedars of Lebanon.’ ”

*The Reader concludes*

The Word of the Lord.

## **Psalm 21:1–7**

*At Said Mass the Reader says*

Please join me in reading Psalm 21, verses 1 through 7, found in the red Prayer Book beginning on page 608.

*(The Reader repeats the above information as needed.)*

*At Sung Mass the Reader says*

Please join me in reading Psalm 21 as found in the service bulletin.

- 1 The king rejoices in your strength, O LORD; \*  
how greatly he exults in your victory!
- 2 You have given him his heart’s desire; \*  
you have not denied him the request of his lips.

- 3 For you meet him with blessings of prosperity, \*  
and set a crown of fine gold upon his head.
- 4 He asked you for life, and you gave it to him: \*  
length of days, for ever and ever.
- 5 His honor is great, because of your victory; \*  
splendor and majesty have you bestowed upon  
him.
- 6 For you will give him everlasting felicity \*  
and will make him glad with the joy of your  
presence.
- 7 For the king puts his trust in the Lord; \*  
because of the loving-kindness of the Most High,  
he will not fall.

## **The Gospel Acclamation**

*The Reader leads the appointed acclamation.*

*Reader* Alleluia.

*People* Alleluia.

*Reader* Show me your ways O Lord: \*  
lead me in your truth and teach me.

*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.

Jesus said to his disciples, “For the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place; and to them he said, ‘You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.’ So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing; and he said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’ And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his steward, ‘Call the laborers and pay them their wages,

beginning with the last, up to the first.’ And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. And on receiving it they grumbled at the householder, saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you, and go; I choose to give to this last as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?’ So the last will be first, and the first last.”

*The Minister says*            The Gospel of the Lord.