

## YEAR 1, PROPER 15, THURSDAY: MASS

### For use with the First Lesson

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

Zor'ah

ZOR-uh

Mano'ah

muh-NOH-uh

Nazirite

NAZ-ur-ight

*The First Lesson. The Reader begins*

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

And the people of Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD; and the LORD gave them into the hand of the Philistines for forty years. And there was a certain man of Zor'ah, of the tribe of the Danites, whose name was Mano'ah; and his wife was barren and had no children. And the angel of the LORD appeared to the woman and said to her, “Behold, you are barren and have no children; but you shall conceive and bear a son. Therefore beware, and drink no wine or strong drink, and eat nothing unclean, for lo, you shall conceive and bear a son. No razor shall come upon his head, for the boy shall be a Nazirite to God from birth; and he shall begin to deliver Israel from the hand of the Philistines.” Then the woman

came and told her husband, “A man of God came to me, and his countenance was like the countenance of the angel of God, very terrible; I did not ask him whence he was, and he did not tell me his name; but he said to me, ‘Behold, you shall conceive and bear a son; so then drink no wine or strong drink, and eat nothing unclean, for the boy shall be a Nazirite to God from birth to the day of his death.’ ”

*The Reader concludes*

The Word of the Lord.

### **Psalm 139:10–17**

*The Reader says*

Please join me in reading Psalm 139, verses 10 through 17, found in the red Prayer Book beginning on page 794.

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

10 If I say, “Surely the darkness will cover me, \*  
and the light around me turn to night,”

11 Darkness is not dark to you;  
the night is as bright as the day; \*  
darkness and light to you are both alike.

- 12 For you yourself created my inmost parts; \*  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
- 13 I will thank you because I am marvelously made; \*  
your works are wonderful, and I know it well.
- 14 My body was not hidden from you, \*  
while I was being made in secret  
and woven in the depths of the earth.
- 15 Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the  
womb;  
all of them were written in your book; \*  
they were fashioned day by day,  
when as yet there was none of them.
- 16 How deep I find your thoughts, O God! \*  
how great is the sum of them!
- 17 If I were to count them, they would be more in  
number than the sand; \*  
to count them all, my life span would need to be  
like yours.

*Please turn the page to lead the Gospel Acclamation.*

## **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.

And again Jesus spoke to the chief priests and the elders of the people in parables, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a marriage feast for his son, and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the marriage feast; but they would not come. Again he sent other servants, saying, ‘Tell those who are invited, Behold, I have made ready my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves are killed, and

everything is ready; come to the marriage feast.’ But they made light of it and went off, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them. The king was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore to the thoroughfares, and invite to the marriage feast as many as you find.’ And those servants went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good; so the wedding hall was filled with guests. But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment; and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and cast him into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.’ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

*The Minister says*            The Gospel of the Lord.