

## YEAR 1, PROPER 21, WEDNESDAY: MASS

### For use with the First Lesson

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

Ni'san

Ar-ta-xerx'es

A'saph

NIGH-san

ahr-tuh-ZURK-seez

AY-saf

*The First Lesson. The Reader begins*

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

In the month of Ni'san, in the twentieth year of King Ar-ta-xerx'es, when wine was before him, I took up the wine and gave it to the king. Now I had not been sad in his presence. And the king said to me, "Why is your face sad, seeing you are not sick? This is nothing else but sadness of the heart." Then I was very much afraid. I said to the king, "Let the king live for ever! Why should not my face be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' sepulchres, lies waste, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?" Then the king said to me, "For what do you make request?" So I prayed to the God of heaven. And I said to the king, "If it

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NEHEMIAH 2:1–8; PSALM 137:1–6; LUKE 9:51–62\*

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pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' sepulchres, that I may rebuild it." And the king said to me (the queen sitting beside him), "How long will you be gone, and when will you return?" So it pleased the king to send me; and I set him a time. And I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, let letters be given me to the governors of the province Beyond the River, that they may let me pass through until I come to Judah; and a letter to A'saph, the keeper of the king's forest, that he may give me timber to make beams for the gates of the fortress of the temple, and for the wall of the city, and for the house which I shall occupy." And the king granted me what I asked, for the good hand of my God was upon me.

*The Reader concludes*

The Word of the Lord.

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## Psalm 137:1–6

*At Said Mass the Reader says*

Please join me in reading Psalm 137, verses 1 through 6, found in the red Prayer Book on page 792.

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

*At Sung Mass the Reader says*

Please join me in reading Psalm 137 as found in the service bulletin.

- 1 By the waters of Babylon we sat down and wept, \*  
when we remembered you, O Zion.
- 2 As for our harps, we hung them up \*  
on the trees in the midst of the land.
- 3 For those who led us away captive asked us for a  
song,  
and our oppressors called for mirth: \*  
“Sing us one of the songs of Zion.”
- 4 How shall we sing the LORD’s song \*  
upon an alien soil?

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- 5 If I forget you, O Jerusalem, \*  
let my right hand forget its skill.
- 6 Let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth  
if I do not remember you, \*  
if I do not set Jerusalem above my highest joy.

### **The Gospel Acclamation**

*The Reader leads the appointed acclamation.*

*Reader* Alleluia.

*People* Alleluia.

*Reader* Give me understanding, O Lord, \*  
and I shall keep your law with all my  
heart.

*People* Alleluia.

*The Reader returns to his or her seat.*

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## 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.

When the days drew near for him to be received up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. And he sent messengers ahead of him, who went and entered a village of the Samaritans, to make ready for him; but the people would not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. And when his disciples James and John saw it, they said, “Lord, do you want us to bid fire come down from heaven and consume them?” But he turned and rebuked them. And they went on to another village. As they were going along the road, a man said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.” And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man has nowhere to lay his head.” To another he said, “Follow me.” But he said, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.” But he said to him, “Leave the dead to bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.” Another said, “I will

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follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home.” Jesus said to him, “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”

*The Minister says*            The Gospel of the Lord.

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