

## YEAR 1, PROPER 24, FRIDAY: MASS

*The First Lesson. The Reader begins*

### **A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans**

What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet, if it had not been for the law, I should not have known sin. I should not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, “You shall not covet.” But sin, finding opportunity in the commandment, wrought in me all kinds of covetousness. Apart from the law sin lies dead. I was once alive apart from the law, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died; the very commandment which promised life proved to be death to me. For sin, finding opportunity in the commandment, deceived me and by it killed me. So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and just and good. Did that which is good, then, bring death to me? By no means! It was sin, working death in me through what is good, in order that sin might be shown to be sin, and through the commandment might become sinful beyond measure. We know that the law is spiritual; but I am carnal, sold under sin. I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I

agree that the law is good. So then it is no longer I that do it, but sin which dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin which dwells within me. So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God, in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin which dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

*The Reader concludes*

The Word of the Lord.

## Psalm 19:7–11

*The Reader says*

Please join me in reading Psalm 19, verses 7 through 11, found in the red Prayer Book on page 607.

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

- 7    The law of the LORD is perfect  
                and revives the soul; \*  
      the testimony of the LORD is sure  
                and gives wisdom to the innocent.
- 8    The statutes of the LORD are just  
                and rejoice the heart; \*  
      the commandment of the LORD is clear  
                and gives light to the eyes.
- 9    The fear of the LORD is clean  
                and endures for ever; \*  
      the judgments of the Lord are true  
                and righteous altogether.
- 10   More to be desired are they than gold,  
                more than much fine gold, \*  
      sweeter far than honey,  
                than honey in the comb.

11 By them also is your servant enlightened, \*  
and in keeping them there is great reward.

## **The Gospel Acclamation**

*The Reader leads the appointed acclamation.*

*Reader* Alleluia.

*People* Alleluia.

*Reader* How good it is to sing praises to our  
God; \*  
how pleasant it is to honor him with  
praise.

*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.

Jesus also said to the multitudes, “When you see a  
cloud rising in the west, you say at once, ‘A shower is  
coming’; and so it happens. And when you see the

south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat’; and it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky; but why do you not know how to interpret the present time? And why do you not judge for yourselves what is right? As you go with your accuser before the magistrate, make an effort to settle with him on the way, lest he drag you to the judge, and the judge hand you over to the officer, and the officer put you in prison. I tell you, you will never get out till you have paid the very last copper.”

*The Minister says*        The Gospel of the Lord.