

YEAR 2, PROPER 6, WEDNESDAY: MASS

For use with the First Lesson

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

Ecclesiasticus

uh-KLEE-zee-AS-ti-kuhs

Eli'sha

uh-LIGH-shuh

The First Lesson. The Reader begins

A Reading from the Second Book of the Kings

Now when the LORD was about to take Eli'jah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Eli'jah and Eli'sha were on their way from Gilgal. Eli'jah said to him, “Tarry here, I pray you; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan.” But he said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the sons of the prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Eli'jah took his mantle, and rolled it up, and struck the water, and the water was parted to the one side and to the other, till the two of them could go over on dry ground. When they had crossed, Eli'jah said to Eli'sha, “Ask what I shall do for

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2 KINGS 2:1, 6–14; PSALM 31:19–24; MATTHEW 6:1–6*

WE READ MATTHEW 6:16–18 NOT TODAY, BUT ON FRIDAY OF THIS WEEK, IN THE PASSAGE'S CANONICAL ORDER.

MATTHEW 7:28 MAKES CLEAR THAT JESUS IS SPEAKING TO THE CROWDS AND TO HIS DISCIPLES.

you, before I am taken from you.” And Eli'sha said, “I pray you, let me inherit a double share of your spirit.” And he said, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it shall be so for you; but if you do not see me, it shall not be so.” And as they still went on and talked, behold, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them. And Eli'jah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. And Eli'sha saw it and he cried, “My father, my father! the chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” And he saw him no more. Then he took hold of his own clothes and rent them in two pieces. And he took up the mantle of Eli'jah that had fallen from him, and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. Then he took the mantle of Eli'jah that had fallen from him, and struck the water, saying, “Where is the LORD, the God of Eli'jah?” And when he had struck the water, the water was parted to the one side and to the other; and Eli'sha went over.

The Reader concludes The Word of the Lord.

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Psalm 31:19–24

At Said Mass the Reader says

Please join me in reading Psalm 31, verses 19 through 24, found in the Prayer Book on page 624.

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

- 19 How great is your goodness, O LORD!
which you have laid up for those who fear you; *
which you have done in the sight of all
for those who put their trust in you.
- 20 You hide them in the covert of your presence
from those who slander them; *
you keep them in your shelter from the strife of
tongues.
- 21 Blessed be the LORD! *
for he has shown me the wonders of his love in a
besieged city.

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- 22 Yet I said in my alarm,
“I have been cut off from the sight of your
eyes.” *
Nevertheless, you heard the sound of my
entreaty
when I cried out to you.
- 23 Love the LORD, all you who worship him; *
the LORD protects the faithful,
but repays to the full those who act haughtily.
- 24 Be strong and let your heart take courage, *
all you who wait for the LORD.

The Gospel Acclamation

The Reader leads the appointed acclamation.

Reader Alleluia.

People Alleluia.

Reader Open my eyes, O Lord, *
that I may see the wonders of your law.

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
Matthew.

People

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, “Beware of practicing your piety before men in order to be seen by them; for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. Thus, when you give alms, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father

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who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret
will reward you.”

The Minister says The Gospel of the Lord.

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