

YEAR 2, PROPER 7, SATURDAY: MASS

The First Lesson. The Reader begins

A Reading from the Lamentations of Jeremiah

The Lord has destroyed without mercy all the habitations of Jacob; in his wrath he has broken down the strongholds of the daughter of Judah; he has brought down to the ground in dishonor the kingdom and its rulers. The elders of the daughter of Zion sit on the ground in silence; they have cast dust on their heads and put on sackcloth; the maidens of Jerusalem have bowed their heads to the ground. My eyes are spent with weeping; my soul is in tumult; my heart is poured out in grief because of the destruction of the daughter of my people, because infants and babes faint in the streets of the city. They cry to their mothers, “Where is bread and wine?” as they faint like wounded men in the streets of the city, as their life is poured out on their mothers’ bosom. What can I say for you, to what compare you, O daughter of Jerusalem? What can I liken to you, that I may comfort you, O virgin daughter of Zion? For vast as the sea is your ruin; who can restore you? Your prophets have seen for you false and deceptive visions; they have not exposed your iniquity to restore your fortunes, but have seen

for you oracles false and misleading. Cry aloud to the Lord! O daughter of Zion! Let tears stream down like a torrent day and night! Give yourself no rest, your eyes no respite! Arise, cry out in the night, at the beginning of the watches! Pour out your heart like water before the presence of the Lord! Lift your hands to him for the lives of your children, who faint for hunger at the head of every street.

The Reader concludes The Word of the Lord.

Psalm 74:1–9

The Reader says

Please join me in reading Psalm 74, verses 1 through 9, found in the red Prayer Book beginning on page 689.

(The Reader repeats the above information as needed.)

- 1 O God, why have you utterly cast us off? *
 Why is your wrath so hot against the sheep of
 your pasture?

- 2 Remember your congregation that you purchased
 long ago, *
 the tribe you redeemed to be your inheritance,
 and Mount Zion where you dwell.

- 3 Turn your steps toward the endless ruins; *
The enemy has laid waste everything in your
sanctuary.
- 4 Your adversaries roared in your holy place; *
they set up their banners as tokens of victory.
- 5 They were like men coming up with axes to a
grove of trees; *
they broke down all your carved work with
hatchets and hammers.
- 6 They set fire to your holy place; *
they defiled the dwelling-place of your Name
and razed it to the ground.
- 7 They said to themselves, “Let us destroy them
altogether.” *
they burned down all the meeting-places of God
in the land.
- 8 There are no signs for us to see;
there is no prophet left; *
there is not one among us who knows how long.

9 How long, O God, will the adversary scoff? *
will the enemy blaspheme your Name for ever?

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.

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.

As Jesus entered Caper'na-um, a centurion came forward to him, beseeching him and saying, "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, in terrible distress." And he said to him, "I will come and heal him." But the centurion answered him, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard him, he marveled, and said to those who followed him, "Truly, I say to you, not even in Israel have I found such faith. I tell you, many will come from east and west and sit at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth." And to the centurion Jesus said, "Go; be it done for you as you have believed." And the servant

was healed at that very moment. And when Jesus entered Peter's house, he saw his mother-in-law lying sick with a fever; he touched her hand, and the fever left her, and she rose and served him. That evening they brought to him many who were possessed with demons; and he cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick. This was to fulfil what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah, "He took our infirmities and bore our diseases."

The Minister says The Gospel of the Lord.