

## YEAR 2, PROPER 16, WEDNESDAY: MASS

*The First Lesson. The Reader begins*

### **A Reading from the**

### **Second Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians**

Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed on and triumph, as it did among you, and that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men; for not all have faith. But the Lord is faithful; he will strengthen you and guard you from evil. And we have confidence in the Lord about you, that you are doing and will do the things which we command. May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ. Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is living in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not idle when we were with you, we did not eat any one's bread without paying, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not burden any of you. It was not because we have not that right, but to give you in our

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2 THESSALONIANS 3:1–18\*; PSALM 128; MATTHEW 23:27–32

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conduct an example to imitate. For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: If any one will not work, let him not eat. For we hear that some of you are living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any work. Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work in quietness and to earn their own living. Brethren, do not be weary in well-doing. If any one refuses to obey what we say in this letter, note that man, and have nothing to do with him, that he may be ashamed. Do not look on him as an enemy, but warn him as a brother. Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in all ways. The Lord be with you all. I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. This is the mark in every letter of mine; it is the way I write. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.  
*The Reader concludes*    The Word of the Lord.

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## Psalm 128

*At Said Mass the Reader says*

Please join me in reading Psalm 128, which is found in the service bulletin on page 14.

*The Reader begins*

1 Happy are they all who fear the LORD, \*

*All* and who follow in his ways!

2 You shall eat the fruit of your labor; \*  
happiness and prosperity shall be yours.

3 Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine within your  
house, \*  
your children like olive shoots round about your  
table.

4 The man who fears the LORD \*  
shall thus indeed be blessed.

5 The LORD bless you from Zion, \*  
and may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all  
the days of your life.

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6 May you live to see your children's children; \*  
may peace be upon Israel.

## **The Gospel Acclamation**

*The Reader leads the appointed acclamation.*

*Reader* Alleluia.

*People* Alleluia.

*Reader* I will bless the Lord at all times; \*  
his praise shall ever be in my mouth.

*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, “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within they are full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness. So you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but within you are full of hypocrisy and iniquity. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for you build the tombs of the prophets and adorn the monuments of the righteous, saying, ‘If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have taken part with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.’ Thus you witness against yourselves, that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers.”

*The Minister says*

The Gospel of the Lord.

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