## Year 2, Proper 27, Thursday: Mass

*The First Lesson. The Reader begins*

## A Reading from the Letter of Paul to Philemon

I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers, because I hear of your love and of the faith which you have toward the Lord Jesus and all the saints, and I pray that the sharing of your faith may promote the knowledge of all the good that is ours in Christ. For I have derived much joy and comfort from your love, my brother, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you. Accordingly, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do what is required, yet for love’s sake I prefer to appeal to you—I, Paul, an ambassador and now a prisoner also for Christ Jesus—I appeal to you for my child, Ones'imus, whose father I have become in my imprisonment. (Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me.) I am sending him back to you, sending my very heart. I would have been glad to keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel; but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own free will. Perhaps this is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back for ever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, as a beloved brother, especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. So if you consider me your partner, receive him as you would receive me. If he has wronged you at all, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, write this with my own hand, I will repay it—to say nothing of your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, I want some benefit from you in the Lord. Refresh my heart in Christ.

*The Reader concludes* The Word of the Lord.

**Psalm 146**

*The Reader says*

Please join me in reading Psalm 146, found in the red Prayer Book on page 803.

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

1 Hallelujah!

Praise the Lord, O my soul! \*

 I will praise the Lord as long as I live;

 I will sing praises to my God while I have my

being.

2 Put not your trust in rulers, nor in any child of

earth, \*

 for there is no help in them.

3 When they breathe their last, they return to earth,\*

 and in that day their thoughts perish.

4 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for

their help! \*

 whose hope is in the Lord their God;

5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that

is in them; \*

 who keeps his promise for ever;

6 Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, \*

 and food to those who hunger.

7 The Lord sets the prisoners free;

the Lord opens the eyes of the blind; \*

 the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;

8 The Lord loves the righteous;

the Lord cares for the stranger; \*

 he sustains the orphan and widow,

 but frustrates the way of the wicked.

9 The Lord shall reign for ever, \*

 your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.

 Hallelujah!

*The Reader says*

Please stand for the Gospel.

**Verse Before the Gospel**

*The Reader leads the appointed acclamation.*

*Reader* Alleluia.

*People* Alleluia.

*Reader* Be watchful and ready, \*

 for you know not when the Son of Man

is coming.

*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.

Being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God was coming, Jesus answered them, “The kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed; nor will they say, ‘Lo, here it is!’ or ‘There!’ for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you.” And he said to the disciples, “The days are coming when you will desire to see one of the days of the Son of man, and you will not see it. And they will say to you, ‘Lo, there!’ or ‘Lo, here!’ Do not go, do not follow them. For as the lightning flashes and lights up the sky from one side to the other, so will the Son of man be in his day. But first he must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation.”

*The Minister says*  The Gospel of the Lord.