

YEAR A, PROPER 13, SUNDAY: MASS

The First Lesson. The Reader begins

A Reading from the Book of Nehemiah

Ezra said: “But those whom you led out of Egypt and our fathers acted presumptuously and stiffened their neck and did not obey thy commandments; they refused to obey, and were not mindful of the wonders which thou didst perform among them; but they stiffened their neck and appointed a leader to return to their bondage in Egypt. But thou art a God ready to forgive, gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and didst not forsake them. Even when they had made for themselves a molten calf and said, ‘This is your God who brought you up out of Egypt,’ and had committed great blasphemies, thou in thy great mercies didst not forsake them in the wilderness; the pillar of cloud which led them in the way did not depart from them by day, nor the pillar of fire by night which lighted for them the way by which they should go. Thou gavest thy good Spirit to instruct them, and didst not withhold thy manna from their mouth, and gavest them water for their thirst.”

The Reader concludes The Word of the Lord.

Psalm 78:14–25

The Reader says

Please join me in reading Psalm 78, verses 14 through 25, as found in the red Prayer Book on page 78.

(The Reader repeats the above information as needed.)

14. He led them with a cloud by day, *
and all the night through with a glow of fire.
- 15 He split the hard rocks in the wilderness *
and gave them drink as from the great deep.
- 16 He brought streams out of the cliff, *
and the waters gushed out like rivers.
- 17 But they went on sinning against him, *
rebellious in the desert against the Most High.
- 18 They tested God in their hearts, *
demanding food for their craving.
- 19 They railed against God and said, *
“Can God set a table in the wilderness?”

- 20 True, he struck the rock, the waters gushed out,
and the gullies overflowed; *
but is he able to give bread
or to provide meat for his people?”
- 21 When the LORD heard this, he was full of wrath; *
a fire was kindled against Jacob,
and his anger mounted against Israel;
- 22 For they had no faith in God, *
nor did they put their trust in his saving power.
23. So he commanded the clouds above *
and opened the doors of heaven.
24. He rained down manna upon them to eat *
and gave them grain from heaven.
25. So mortals ate the bread of angels; *
he provided for them food enough.

The Gospel Acclamation

The Reader leads the appointed acclamation.

Reader Alleluia.

People Alleluia.

Reader Sing to the Lord and bless his Name; *
proclaim the good news of his salvation
from day to day.

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.

Now when Jesus heard that John the Baptist had been killed, he withdrew in a boat to a lonely place apart. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. As he went ashore he saw a great throng; and he had compassion on them, and healed their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a lonely place, and the day is

now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” Jesus said, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.” They said to him, “We have only five loaves here and two fish.” And he said, “Bring them here to me.” Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass; and taking the five loaves and the two fish he looked up to heaven, and blessed, and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

The Minister says The Gospel of the Lord.