

YEAR A, PROPER 21, SUNDAY: MASS

The First Lesson. The Reader begins

A Reading from the Book of Ezekiel

The word of the LORD came to me again: “What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, ‘The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge’? As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sins shall die. Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? When a righteous man turns away from his righteousness and commits iniquity, he shall die for it; for the iniquity which he has committed he shall die. Again, when a wicked man turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is lawful and right, he shall save his life. Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions which he had committed, he shall surely live, he shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ O house

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EZEKIEL 18:1–4, 25–32; PSALM 25:3–9; PHILIPPIANS 2:1–13; MATTHEW 21:23–32*

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of Israel, are my ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of any one, says the Lord GOD; so turn, and live.”

The Reader concludes The Word of the Lord.

Psalm 25:3–9

The Reader says

Please join me in reading Psalm 25, verses 3 through 9, found in the red Prayer Book beginning on page 614.

(The Reader repeats the above information as needed.)

3 Show me your ways, O LORD, *
 and teach me your paths.

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- 4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, *
 for you are the God of my salvation;
 in you have I trusted all the day long.
- 5 Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, *
 for they are from everlasting.
- 6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my
 transgressions; *
 remember me according to your love
 and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.
- 7 Gracious and upright is the LORD; *
 therefore he teaches sinners in his way.
- 8 He guides the humble in doing right *
 and teaches his way to the lowly.
- 9 All the paths of the LORD are love and
 faithfulness *
 to those who keep his covenant and his
 testimonies.

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The Second Lesson. The Reader begins

A Reading from the

Letter of Paul to the Philippians

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any incentive of love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfishness or conceit, but in humility count others better than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only

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The Reader concludes The Word of the Lord.

The Reader leads the appointed acclamation.

People Alleluia.

People Alleluia.

Please turn the page for the Gospel Lesson.

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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.

And when Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” Jesus answered them, “I also will ask you a question; and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. The baptism of John, whence was it? From heaven or from men?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ But if we say, ‘From men,’ we are afraid of the multitude; for all hold that John was a prophet.” So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things. What do you think? A man had two sons; and he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ And he answered, ‘I will not’; but

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afterward he repented and went. And he went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the harlots believed him; and even when you saw it, you did not afterward repent and believe him.”

The Minister says The Gospel of the Lord.

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