

YEAR B, PROPER 16, SUNDAY: MASS

For use with the First Lesson

Adapted from *The Vocabulary of the Church* (1960):

Am'orites

AM-uh-rights

Shech'em

SHEK-uhm

The First Lesson. The Reader begins

A Reading from the Book of Joshua

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, ‘Fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods which your fathers served beyond the River, and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. And if you be unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Am'orites in whose land you dwell; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.’” Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD,

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to serve other gods; for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our fathers up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage, and who did those great signs in our sight, and preserved us in all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Am'orites who lived in the land; therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God.” But Joshua said to the people, “You cannot serve the LORD; for he is a holy God; he is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good.” And the people said to Joshua, “Nay; but we will serve the LORD.” Then Joshua said to the people, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD, to serve him.” And they said, “We are witnesses.” He said, “Then put away the foreign gods which are among you, and incline your heart to the LORD, the God of Israel.” And the people said to Joshua, “The LORD our God we will serve, and his voice we will obey.” So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shech'em.

The Reader concludes

The Word of the Lord.

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Psalm 34:15–22

The Reader says

Please join me in reading Psalm 34, verses 15 through 22, found in the red Prayer Book beginning on page 628.

(The Reader repeats the above information as needed.)

15 The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, *
and his ears are open to their cry.

16 The face of the LORD is against those who do
evil, *
to root out the remembrance of them from the
earth.

17 The righteous cry, and the LORD hears them *
and delivers them from all their troubles.

18 The LORD is near to the brokenhearted *
and will save those whose spirits are crushed.

19 Many are the troubles of the righteous, *
but the LORD will deliver him out of them all.

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20 He will keep safe all his bones; *
not one of them shall be broken.

21 Evil shall slay the wicked, *
and those who hate the righteous will be
punished.

22 The LORD ransoms the life of his servants, *
and none will be punished who trust in him.

The Second Lesson. The Reader begins

A Reading from the

Letter of Paul to the Ephesians

Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ.
Wives, be subject to your husbands, as to the Lord.
For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the
head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior.
As the church is subject to Christ, so let wives also be
subject in everything to their husbands. Husbands,
love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave
himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having
cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,
that he might present the church to himself in
splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing,

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that she might be holy and without blemish. Even so husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no man ever hates his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” This mystery is a profound one, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church; however, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

The Reader concludes

The Word of the Lord.

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 John.

People

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said: “I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if any one eats of this bread, he will live for ever; and the bread which I shall give for the life of the world is my flesh.” . . . Many of his disciples, when they heard it, said, “This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?” But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples murmured at it, said to them, “Do you take offense at this? Then what if you were to see the Son of man ascending where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life, the flesh is of no avail; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But there are some of you that do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who those were that did not believe, and who it was that would betray him. And he said, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father.” After this many of his disciples drew back and no longer went about with him. Jesus said to the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom

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shall we go? You have the words of eternal life; and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God. Jesus answered them, “Did I not choose you, the twelve, and one of you is a devil?” He spoke of Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the twelve, was to betray him.”

The Minister says The Gospel of the Lord.

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