

**FEBRUARY 23,
POLYCARP, BISHOP AND MARTYR OF SMYRNA, 156:
MASS**

The First Lesson. The Reader begins

A Reading from the Revelation to John

One like a son of man said to me, “To the angel of the church in Smyrna write: “The words of the first and the last, who died and came to life. I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich) and the slander of those who say that they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who conquers shall not be hurt by the second death.’ ”

The Reader concludes The Word of the Lord.

Please turn the page to lead the appointed psalm.

Psalm 116: 10–17

At Said Mass the Reader says

Please join me in reading Psalm 116, verses 10 through 17, found in the red Prayer Book beginning on page 759.

(The Reader repeats the above information as needed.)

At Sung Mass the Reader says

Please join me in reading Psalm 116 found in the bulletin.

- 10 How shall I repay the LORD *
for all the good things he has done for me?
- 11 I will lift up the cup of salvation *
and call upon the Name of the LORD.
- 12 I will fulfill my vows to the LORD *
in the presence of all his people.
- 13 Precious in the sight of the LORD *
is the death of his servants.

- 14 O LORD, I am your servant; *
I am your servant and the child of your
handmaid;
you have freed me from my bonds.
- 15 I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving *
and call upon the Name of the LORD.
- 16 I will fulfill my vows to the LORD *
in the presence of all his people,
- 17 In the courts of the LORD'S house, *
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.
Hallelujah!

Before the Season of Lent begins:

The Gospel Acclamation

The Reader leads the appointed acclamation.

Reader Alleluia.

People Alleluia.

Reader We praise you, O God, we acknowledge
you to be the Lord; *
the white robed army of martyrs praise
you.

People Alleluia.

The Reader returns to his or her seat.

In Lent:

There is no verse before the Gospel. 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.

Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came up to Jesus, with her sons, and kneeling before him she asked him for something. And he said to her, “What do you want?” She said to him, “Command that these two sons of mine may sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom.” But Jesus answered, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am to drink?” They said to him, “We are able.” He said to them, “You will drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father.”

The Minister says

The Gospel of the Lord.