

## LENT 5, WEDNESDAY: MASS

### For use with the First Lesson

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

Nebuchadnezzar	ne-buh-kuhd-NEZ-ur
Shad'rach	SHAD-rak
Me'shach	MEE-shak
Abed'nego	uh-BED-ni-go
tri'gon	TRIGH-gahn
sa'trap	SAY-trap

*The First Lesson. The Reader begins*

### **A Reading from the Book of Daniel**

Nebuchadnezzar said to them, “Is it true, O Shad'rach, Me'shach, and Abed'nego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the golden image which I have set up? Now if you are ready when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, tri'gon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, to fall down and worship the image which I have made, well and good; but if you do not worship, you shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace; and who is the god that will deliver you out of my hands?” Shad'rach, Me'shach, and Abed'nego answered the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar,

we have no need to answer you in this matter. If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace; and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image which you have set up.” Then Nebuchadnezzar was full of fury, and the expression of his face was changed against Shad'rach, Me'shach, and Abed'nego. He ordered the furnace heated seven times more than it was wont to be heated. And he ordered certain mighty men of his army to bind Shad'rach, Me'shach, and Abed'nego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace. Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up in haste. He said to his counselors, “Did we not cast three men bound into the fire?” They answered the king, “True, O king.” He answered, “But I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods.” Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the door of the burning fiery furnace and said, “Shad'rach, Me'shach, and Abed'nego, servants of the Most High God, come forth, and come here!” Then Shad'rach, Me'shach, and Abed'nego came out from the fire. And the sa'traps, the prefects, the governors, and the king's counselors gathered together and saw that the fire had

not had any power over the bodies of those men; the hair of their heads was not singed, their mantles were not harmed, and no smell of fire had come upon them. Nebuchadnezzar said, “Blessed be the God of Shad'rach, Me'shach, and Abed'nego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants, who trusted in him, and set at nought the king's command, and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God.”

*The Reader concludes*

The Word of the Lord.

### **Psalm 17:1–5**

*At Said Mass the Reader says*

Please join me in reading Psalm 17, verses 1 through 5, found in the red Prayer Book beginning on page 600.

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

*At Sung Mass the Reader says*

Please join me in reading Psalm 17 as found in the service bulletin.

- 1 Hear my plea of innocence, O LORD;  
give heed to my cry; \*  
listen to my prayer, which does not come from  
lying lips.

- 2 Let my vindication come forth from your  
presence; \*  
let your eyes be fixed on justice.
- 3 Weigh my heart, summon me by night, \*  
melt me down; you will find no impurity in me.
- 4 I give no offense with my mouth as others do; \*  
I have heeded the words of your lips.
- 5 My footsteps hold fast to the ways of your law; \*  
in your paths my feet shall not stumble.

### **Verse before the Gospel**

*The Reader reads the appointed verse.*

Jesus said, “Hear the word, hold it fast in an  
honest and good heart, \*  
and bring forth fruit with patience.”

*The Reader then 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 John.

*People*

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus then said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham, and have never been in bondage to any one. How is it that you say, ‘You will be made free?’” Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, every one who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not continue in the house for ever; the son continues for ever. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed. I know that you are descendants of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me, because my word finds no place in you. I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father.” They answered him, “Abraham is our father.” Jesus said to them, “If you were Abraham’s children, you would do what Abraham did, but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth which I heard from God; this is not what Abraham did. You do what your father did.”

They said to him, “We were not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God.” Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I proceeded and came forth from God; I came not of my own accord, but he sent me.”

*The Minister says*            The Gospel of the Lord.