

**JANUARY 21,  
AGNES AND CECILIA OF ROME,  
MARTYRS, 304 AND C. 230: MASS**

*The First Lesson. The Reader begins*

**A Reading from the Song of Solomon**

My beloved speaks and says to me: “Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away; for lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.”

*The Reader concludes*    The Word of the Lord.

## **Psalm 116: 1–8**

*At Said Mass the Reader says*

Please join me in reading Psalm 116, verses 1 through 8, found in the red Prayer Book on page 759.

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

*At Sung Mass the Reader says*

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

- 1 I love the LORD, because he has heard the voice  
of my supplication, \*  
because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I  
called upon him.
- 2 The cords of death entangled me;  
the grip of the grave took hold of me; \*  
I came to grief and sorrow.
- 3 Then I called upon the Name of the LORD: \*  
“O LORD, I pray you, save my life.”
- 4 Gracious is the LORD and righteous; \*  
our God is full of compassion.

- 5 The LORD watches over the innocent; \*  
I was brought very low, and he helped me.
- 6 Turn again to your rest, O my soul. \*  
for the LORD has treated you well.
- 7 For you have rescued my life from death, \*  
my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling.
- 8 I will walk in the presence of the LORD \*  
in the land of the living.

## **The Gospel Acclamation**

*The Reader leads the appointed acclamation.*

*Reader* Alleluia.

*People* Alleluia.

*Reader* Blessed are those who are persecuted for  
righteousness' sake, \*  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

*People* Alleluia.

*The Reader returns to his or her seat.*

*Please turn the page for the Gospel Lesson.*

## 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.

At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them, and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me; but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened round his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.”

*The Minister says*

The Gospel of the Lord.