

## MARCH 19, SAINT JOSEPH: MASS

*The First Lesson. The Reader begins*

### **A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans**

The promise to Abraham and his descendants, that they should inherit the world, did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression. That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants—not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham, for he is the father of us all, as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations; as he had been told, “So shall your descendants be.”

*The Reader concludes*    The Word of the Lord.

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ROMANS 4:13–18; PSALM 89:1–8; PSALM 84:3; LUKE 2:41–52 OR MATTHEW 1:18–25\*

*THE APPOINTED READING FROM LUKE, ABOUT THE BOY JESUS IN JERUSALEM, IS NOT THE PRIMARY GOSPEL TEXT ABOUT JOSEPH’S ROLE IN SALVATION HISTORY. WE INCLUDE MATTHEW 1:18–25 AS AN OPTION FOR THE CELEBRANT. THE ROMAN CATHOLIC LECTIONARY APPOINTS BOTH GOSPELS WITH MATTHEW 1:16, 18–21, 24A AS THEIR FIRST OPTION.*

## **Psalm 89: 1–8**

*At Said Mass the Reader says*

Please join me in reading Psalm 89, verses 1 through 8, found in the red Prayer Book beginning on page 713.  
*(The Reader repeats the above information as needed times.)*

*At Sung Mass the Reader says*

Please join me in reading Psalm 89, as found in the service bulletin.

- 1 Your love, O LORD, for ever will I sing; \*  
from age to age my mouth will proclaim your  
faithfulness.
  
- 2 For I am persuaded that your love is established  
for ever; \*  
you have set your faithfulness firmly in the  
heavens.
  
- 3 “I have made a covenant with my chosen one; \*  
I have sworn an oath to David my servant:

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- 4 ‘I will establish your line for ever, \*  
and preserve your throne for all generations.’ ”
- 5 The heavens bear witness to your wonders, O  
LORD, \*  
and to your faithfulness in the assembly of the  
holy ones;
- 6 For who in the skies can be compared to the  
LORD? \*  
who is like the LORD among the gods?
- 7 God is much to be feared in the council of the  
holy ones, \*  
great and terrible to all those round about him.
- 8 Who is like you, LORD God of hosts? \*  
O mighty LORD, your faithfulness is all around  
you.

***Please turn the page to read the Verse before the  
Gospel.***

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## Verse before the Gospel

*The Reader reads the appointed verse.*

Happy are they who dwell in your house! \*  
they will always be praising you.

*The Reader then returns to his or her seat.*

***The Matthew lesson is included after the reading from Luke.***

## 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 Luke.

*People*

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Now Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom; and when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus

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stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, but supposing him to be in the company they went a day's journey, and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintances; and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions; and all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. And when they saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been looking for you anxiously." And he said to them, "How is it that you sought me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" And they did not understand the saying which he spoke to them. And he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature, and in favor with God and man.

*Or*

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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.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: “Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel” (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the

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Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.

*The Minister says*            The Gospel of the Lord.

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