

JULY 4, INDEPENDENCE DAY: MASS

The First Lesson. The Reader begins

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place which he was to receive as an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was to go. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore. These all died in faith, not having received what was promised, but having seen it and greeted it from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a

better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

The Reader concludes The Word of the Lord.

Psalm 145:1–9

The Reader says

Please join me in reading Psalm 145, verses 1 through 9, found in the red Prayer Book beginning on page 801.

(The Reader repeats the above information as needed.)

- 1 I will exalt you, O God my King, *
and bless your Name for ever and ever.

- 2 Every day will I bless you *
and praise your Name for ever and ever.

- 3 Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; *
there is no end to his greatness.

- 4 One generation shall praise your works to
another *
and shall declare your power.

- 5 I will ponder the glorious splendor of your
majesty *
and all your marvelous works.
- 6 They shall speak of the might of your wondrous
acts, *
and I will tell of your greatness.
- 7 They shall publish the remembrance of your great
goodness; *
they shall sing of your righteous deeds.
- 8 The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.
- 9 The LORD is loving to everyone *
and his compassion is over all his works.

Please turn the page to lead the Gospel Acclamation.

The Gospel Acclamation

The Reader leads the appointed acclamation.

Reader Alleluia.

People Alleluia.

Reader Great is the LORD and greatly to be
praised; *
there is no end to his greatness.

People Alleluia.

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.

Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you salute only your brethren, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? You, therefore, must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

The Minister says The Gospel of the Lord.