

FIRST MONDAY IN SEPTEMBER, LABOR DAY: MASS

For use with the First Lesson

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

Ecclesiasticus uh-KLEE-zee-AS-ti-kuhs

The First Lesson. The Reader begins

A Reading from the Book of Ecclesiasticus

So too is every craftsman and master workman who labors by night as well as by day; those who cut the signets of seals, each is diligent in making a great variety; he sets his heart on painting a lifelike image, and he is careful to finish his work. So too is the smith sitting by the anvil, intent upon his handiwork in iron; the breath of the fire melts his flesh, and he wastes away in the heat of the furnace; he inclines his ear to the sound of the hammer, and his eyes are on the pattern of the object. He sets his heart on finishing his handiwork, and he is careful to complete its decoration. So too is the potter sitting at his work and turning the wheel with his feet; he is always deeply concerned over his work, and all his output is by

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number. He moulds the clay with his arm and makes it pliable with his feet; he sets his heart to finish the glazing, and he is careful to clean the furnace. All these rely upon their hands, and each is skilful in his own work. Without them a city cannot be established, and men can neither sojourn nor live there.

The Reader concludes The Word of the Lord.

Psalm 107:1–9

The Reader says

Please join me in reading Psalm 107, verses 1 through 9, found in the red Prayer Book on page 746.

(The Reader repeats the above information as needed.)

- 1 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, *
and his mercy endures for ever.

- 2 Let all those whom the LORD has redeemed
proclaim *
that he redeemed them from the hand of the foe.

- 3 He gathered them out of the lands; *
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.

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- 4 Some wandered in desert wastes; *
they found no way to a city where they might
dwell.
- 5 They were hungry and thirsty; *
their spirits languished within them.
- 6 Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, *
and he delivered them from their distress.
- 7 He put their feet on a straight path *
to go to a city where they might dwell.
- 8 Let them give thanks to the LORD for his mercy *
and the wonders he does for his children.
- 9 For he satisfies the thirsty *
and fills the hungry with good things.

Please turn the page to lead the Gospel Acclamation.

The Gospel Acclamation

The Reader leads the appointed acclamation.

Reader Alleluia.

People Alleluia.

Reader Where your treasure is, *
there will your heart be also.

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, “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is

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sound, your whole body will be full of light; but if your eye is not sound, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”

The Minister says The Gospel of the Lord.

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