

**DECEMBER 13,
LUCY, MARTYR AT SYRACUSE, C. 304: MASS**

The First Lesson. The Reader begins

A Reading from the First Letter of Peter

Even if you do suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts reverence Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to make a defense to any one who calls you to account for the hope that is in you, yet do it with gentleness and reverence; and keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are abused, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing right, if that should be God's will, than for doing wrong. For Christ also died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers subject to him.

The Reader concludes The Word of the Lord.

Psalm 121

The Reader at Said Mass says:

Please join me in reading Psalm 121, found in the red Prayer Book on page 779.

(The Reader repeats the above information as needed.)

The Reader at Sung Mass says:

Please join me in reading Psalm 121 as found in the service bulletin.

- 1 I lift up my eyes to the hills; *
from where is my help to come?
- 2 My help comes from the LORD, *
the maker of heaven and earth.
- 3 He will not let your foot be moved *
and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.
- 4 Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel *
shall neither slumber nor sleep;
- 5 The LORD himself watches over you; *
the LORD is your shade at your right hand,

- 6 So that the sun shall not strike you by day, *
nor the moon by night.
- 7 The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; *
it is he who shall keep you safe.
- 8 The LORD shall watch over your going out and
your coming in, *
from this time forth for evermore.

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.

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 his disciples, “Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Beware of men; for they will deliver you up to councils, and flog you in their synagogues, and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear testimony before them and the Gentiles. When they deliver you up, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will deliver up brother to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; and you will be hated by all for my name’s sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved.”

The Minister says

The Gospel of the Lord.